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Saturday February 3 1996

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Austria S 2.00	India Ru 50	Romania R 2.00
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The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,485

Watching Bob Dole die

Twenty-four hours with America's biggest loser

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Athletics

Sally Gunnell makes comeback

Outlook page 10

Context

Cézanne and Zola

Two childhoods in Provence

Outlook page 19

Campaign of fear hits Ashdown

Threats against Lib Dem leader erupt into arson

Geoffrey Gibbs and Patrick Wintour

SURVEILLANCE on Paddy Ashdown's home is to be stepped up after a concerted campaign of threats against his property culminated in a firebomb attack yesterday which destroyed his car.

Police last night arrested three men, aged 18, 19 and 21, in connection with the attack. All three are from Yeovil, in Mr Ashdown's constituency.

The attack took place at the Liberal Democrat leader's home in the Somerset village of Norton sub Hamdon. It emerged before the arrests were made that anonymous telephone threats had been made to Mr Ashdown's property and London office in the past few weeks.

Police chiefs had discussed with the Yeovil MP measures to tighten security. Surveillance on his property had been quietly increased.

Mr Ashdown had himself taken a threatening call from a man in December. There were no threats to his life, but the calls were being taken very seriously and the MP's protection was a high priority, said Superintendent Ted Allen, the district commander at Yeovil.

ity, said Superintendent Ted Allen, the district commander at Yeovil.

Mr Ashdown has played a much publicised role in exposing a spate of racist attacks on the tiny ethnic community in Yeovil, which is the third largest town in Somerset. But police yesterday were playing down suggestions that the "despicable" attack which destroyed the MP's registered "Vanhal" Senator was racially motivated.

Last month Mr Ashdown's car window was smashed with a stone in what is believed to have been a linked attack.

Mr Allen said: "There is no evidence of a racial motive whatsoever. It is impossible to say what the motive was, but we are keeping an open mind."

Mr Ashdown had not asked for protection, Mr Allen said. But the superintendent added: "It is something I am concerned about. We have spoken about that and that will be ongoing."

Shrugging off the latest incident, Mr Ashdown insisted on business as usual yesterday afternoon when he honoured a commitment to visit a local junior school.

He declined to comment on the possible motives for the arson. "No one was hurt, but obviously we were shaken and now I am just determined to get on with my job," he said.

In December, during a late night fact-finding tour of the town with a local priest on behalf of the newly formed Partnership Against Racial Harassment in Somerset, a knife was allegedly drawn against the MP only yards from his constituency offices.

At its launch, the campaign group said: "We note with anger that this national evil of racism exists in our community and has been perpetrated by people in our community."

"We do not believe that Yeovil is worse than other towns in this respect. But we know that this is an evil that must be stamped on early and vigorously."

It called on the community to unite against racism and called upon "the people of our community to join us in taking whatever action is necessary to stamp out this evil in our midst."

Police said they would be investigating a number of fire-related incidents in Yeovil in recent months. Last October, the town centre offices of the Western Gazette newspaper suffered £100,000 damage in a firebomb attack. A threatening telephone call had been made to the newspaper, which had highlighted racial attacks in the town.

Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, were woken by police at about 4am after neighbours called emergency services to the blazing car, which was parked in an open building not far from their thatched cottage. The building was severely damaged.

Two men were seen by officers on a routine patrol a few hours before the attack.

• A man, aged 51, has been charged with affray and possessing an offensive weapon in relation to the incident in December involving Mr Ashdown. He is due to appear in court next week.



The burned-out wreckage of Paddy Ashdown's car

Gene Kelly, acrobatic king of the post-war song and dance movie, dies aged 83

GENE KELLY, the dancer and choreographer who brought his athletic grace and Irish charm to *Singin' in the Rain*, *On The Town* and other great film musicals of the 1940s and 1950s, died yesterday at the age of 83.

"Gene died peacefully in his sleep this morning, his wife, Patricia, at his bedside," Warren Cowan, his longtime publicist, told EBCS-TV. Kelly had suffered strokes in 1994 and 1995, and Cowan said he never really recovered from them.

He reigned at MGM in the post-war era with serious acting roles as well as musical comedy parts. He also directed *Hello, Dolly!* and other films.

His most memorable dance was the title number of *Singin' in the Rain*, which co-starred Debbie Reynolds. Kelly was co-director as

well as choreographer and actor in the 1952 film, a light-hearted look at the early days of talking pictures. In 1960, it was one of the first 35 films selected by the US Library of Congress for its National Film Registry of significant movies.

Kelly's acrobatic dance style contrasted with the more elegant Fred Astaire, who began his film career a decade earlier. "People would compare us, but we didn't dance alike at all," he said in a 1994 Los Angeles Times interview. "Fred danced in tails — everybody wore them before I came out here — but I took off my coat, rolled up my sleeves and danced in sweat-shirts and jeans and kinks."

They danced together only twice: as two casual friends sporting clichés in *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946); and at the end of their dancing careers in a

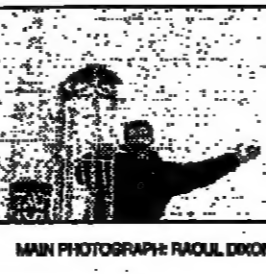
light-footed dust for That's Entertainment Part II.

Kelly had more unusual dance partners in the 1945 film *Anchors Aweigh*, sharing the screen with cartoon characters such as Tom and Jerry. The film, which also co-starred Frank Sinatra and Kathryn Grayson, won him a 1945 Oscar nomination as best actor.

His most bravura performance came with *An American in Paris*. He created the dances, climaxed by the 17-minute ballet with Leslie Caron to George Gershwin's music. The number cost \$500,000 (\$300,000).

The film won the Academy Award as best picture of 1951. He began concentrating on dramatic roles and directing in the late 1960s, particularly after a knee injury sidelined him from dancing for a couple of years. — AP

Take a pound of sugar, a DIY kit, 17 years of jokes and misfires — and the sky's the limit



John Ezard

BITAIN'S DIY spaceman Steve Bennett trounced sceptics and vindicated years of lonely struggle when his sugar-powered rocket, *Starchaser II*, soared 1,890 feet up yesterday over the Northumbrian moors.

It did not reach 3,000 feet as he had planned. "My computer projections must have gone astray", he said. But it sent his reputation into orbit and set a record as the largest airworthy home-made rocket built in Europe. Putting a rocket into orbit is Mr Bennett's next project, after years of misfires and jokes.

Study now, pay later

Tories plan

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

MINISTERS are planning to abolish grants and introduce compulsory mortgage-style loans for students as part of a radical overhaul of universities' funding.

Conservative Central Office will unveil the plan — the so-called "graduate tax" — next week in an effort to defuse the political damage caused by moves to impose a £300 levy on new students.

The proposed loans would have to be paid back over a period of years and would be collected through national insurance contributions. A similar scheme has been operating successfully in Australia and New Zealand since the late 1980s.

University vice-chancellors backed away from the levy scheme yesterday in the face of opposition from politicians, parents and students.

The levy had been floated by some vice-chancellors as a way of making up some of the cuts announced by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in November's Budget.

But the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, representing the 104 British universities, warned yesterday that universities would still impose a "government deficit levy" in 1997 if next year's Budget prolonged the funding crisis.

After an extraordinary meeting in London University Senate House, Gareth Roberts, vice-chancellor of Sheffield University and chairman of the committee, called on the Government and the Opposition parties to make a serious commitment to finding a long-term solution.

He said he was looking forward to a constructive discussion with the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard. "We are being forced to consider such options because the Government has been deficient in

planning major extra cuts which will damage the quality of our students' higher education. "All the political parties have been deficient in not facing up to the need for a new funding system. We cannot abandon our commitment to the quality of our students' degrees. If the politicians do not act, we will be forced to."

Ministers hope the loans plan will steal a march on the Labour Party, which is still dithering over a graduate tax.

The plan, to be unveiled as part of the Conservatives' manifesto commitment in a policy document from the Conservative Political Centre, which is based at Conservative Central Office, will recommend adopting a loans scheme financed by private capital from pension funds and banks.

The proposals would not include tuition fees but would replace the current system of grants and loans that students can take out annually. These can total up to £3,000 a year per student.

The Tory plan would aim to release the £1.7 billion spent on student financial support — about 30 per cent of the higher education budget — to boost funds for teaching and research, which universities say have reached crisis levels.

The vice-chancellors would bring in an estimated £42 million. The Tory policy group is urging the Government to pilot its scheme by introducing maintenance loans for post-graduate students who at present do not qualify. This would enable the financial institutions to iron out any problems and test the collection mechanism.

The high street banks have resisted involvement in the present student loans system, but Conservative policy advisers believe pension funds would be attracted to safe, long-term investment in graduates provided the collection mechanism was secure and backed by the Government.

Leader comment, page 14

The powerhouse new bestseller from

ELIZABETH GEORGE

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY

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OUT NOW IN BANTAM PRESS HARDCOVER

Blair warns Labour of fall in polls

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

AN EXTENDED shadow cabinet strategy meeting was convened yesterday by Tony Blair to brace himself for a substantial fall in Labour's massive poll lead following the Harriet Harman affair.

Damage from the affair is expected to stem from the revived image of divisions within the party. The shadow cabinet was shown longer-term polling revealing that voter identification with Labour is at an all-time high, but public scepticism with all politicians means trust in Labour, one of the keys to the party's election, could prove fragile.

The Tory counter-attack was given a further boost yesterday when Central Office, in a formal act of reconciliation, issued a speech by John Redwood attacking Labour's idea of a stakeholder economy. It is the first time that Central Office has endorsed Mr Redwood since he quit the Cabinet to fight John Major for the leadership.

Mr Blair has, to a degree, decided to fight fear with fear by raising the spectre of a fifth Tory terms and the threat of Tory extremism, a theme he adopted on Thursday night for the first time. The phrase "You're not safe with the Tories" is to be repeated by all shadow cabinet members.

Labour polling, taken before the Harriet Harman affair, shows the party well ahead on most issues, as well as leadership, social cohesion and being in touch with ordi-

Elite French troops track down 'rogue' Serb snipers

Julian Borger in Sarajevo reports on Nato's robust approach to enforcing peace in Bosnia



Some things don't change. In Sarajevo, Nato forces kill a sniper. In Trnava (above) a woman frustrated by lack of information on missing relatives hurls a rock.

NATO's first lethal action by ground troops, in which a Serb sniper was tracked and killed on Thursday night, was a covert operation by French special forces with a point to prove.

French soldiers stationed in Sarajevo felt guilty for having failed to prevent a Serb grenade attack on a tram on January 9 in which a civilian was killed, or to find the perpetrators. So when Nato vehicles came under fire in the Serb suburb of Ilidza on Sunday, their commanders sent an elite team of soldiers to hunt the sniper.

"From our point of view, we failed over the tram incident. We felt we couldn't fall this time," a French officer serving with Nato's peace implementation force (I-FOR) said. "We had people who passed some days awaiting out there waiting for someone to show himself."

From ballistics reports on I-FOR vehicles hit in Ilidza, the French narrowed down the likely source of gunfire. By Thursday they had focused on an abandoned factory near the main road from Ilidza to Sarajevo.

"At 6.30 in the evening the team saw unusual activity in the building. Action teams worked towards the building. Other teams proved to be watching with night-sights," the officer said.

When a figure raised a rifle, one of the action teams opened fire, hitting the sniper in the stomach and arm. He was taken to a nearby hospital but later died, becoming the first person shot dead by I-FOR troops since they arrived on December 20. Nato sources said the

sniper was armed with a high-velocity rifle with a telescopic sight. A second team on the spot and handed over to the Bosnian Serb police after questioning. French military sources

said a third suspected sniper had escaped, but Nato spokesmen said they were aware of only two gunmen.

Ilidza is due to be transferred to government rule today. About 15,000 Serbs have already left and many more are expected to go in the coming weeks.

The aggressive response almost certainly took the UN by surprise. French anti-sniping teams deployed during the war as part of the UN peacekeeping force could

open fire only if snipers shot first. Commando raids were ruled out by the UN's rules of engagement.

Nato's determination to use robust methods to enforce the peace agreement was further illustrated on Wednesday when

Spanish forces called in US A-10 "tank-buster" planes to deal with 30 heavily armed Bosnian government troops who entered the demilitarised zone near Mostar. Once the planes had flown over the unit surrendered its weapons and left.

The weather in Europe

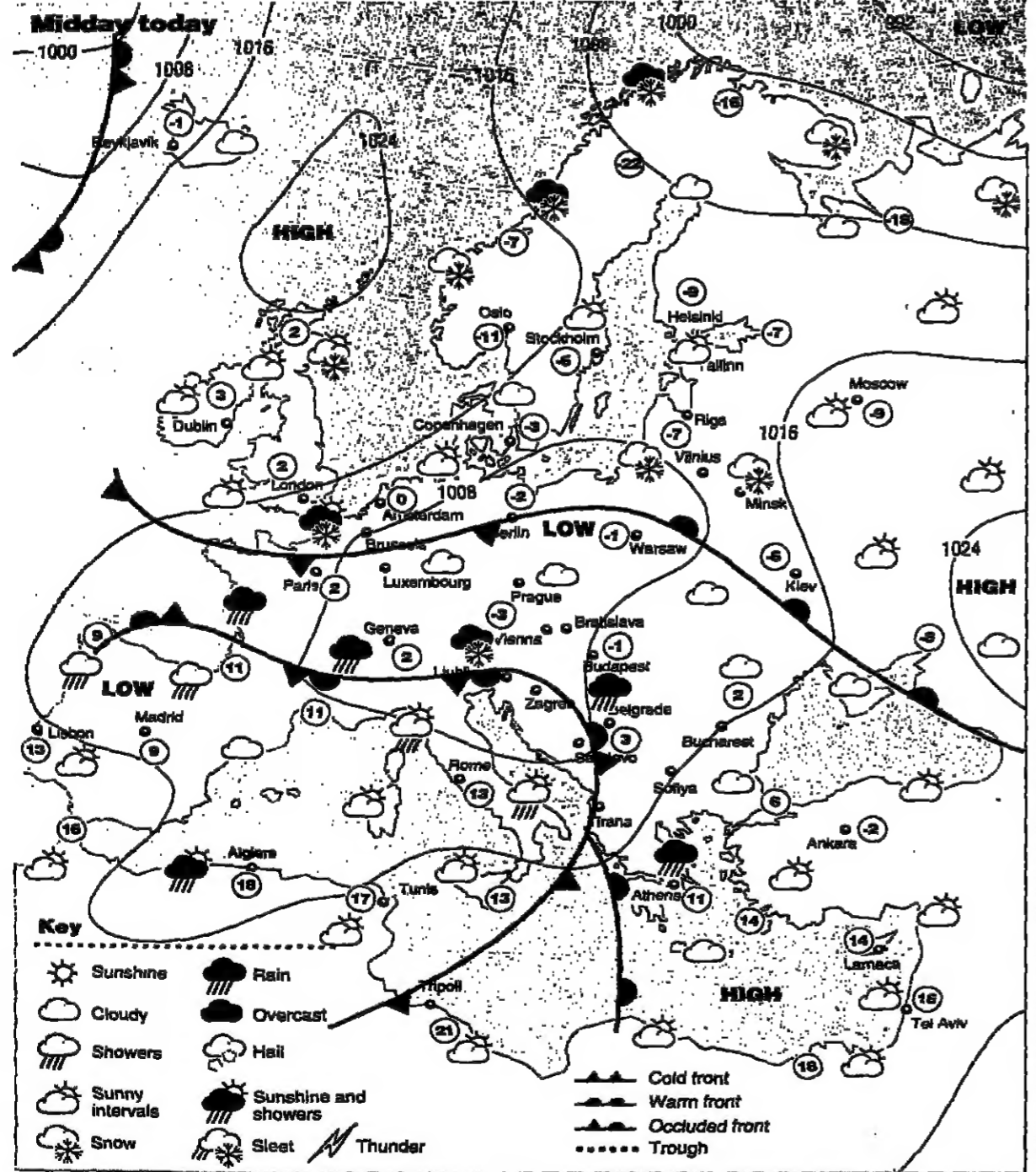


Table with weather forecasts for major European cities including London, Paris, Rome, and Moscow.

Table titled 'Around the world' showing weather forecasts for various global locations.

European weather outlook: Another very cold day with snow showers near the west and north coast of Norway...

Television and radio — Saturday

- List of television and radio programs for Saturday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and BBC World.

Television and radio — Sunday

- List of television and radio programs for Sunday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and BBC World.

Bottomley accused of backing Sky

A move to protect big sports events on TV may have been undermined, writes **Andrew Culf**

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, was embroiled last night in a clash with a cross-party alliance of peers after the Government appeared to reject curbs on Rupert Murdoch's Sky Sports.

Her decision to publish a consultation document on televising big sports events four days before a Lords vote on the Broadcasting Bill was denounced by a former Conservative minister, Lord Peyton, as a "rather grubby manoeuvre".

The Government is facing defeat in the Lords on Tuesday on an amendment to the bill which would bar subscription channels from gaining exclusive access to eight "listed" sports events, including Wimbledon, the Grand National and the World Cup.

The consultation document, which the BBC claims relies heavily on data supplied by BSkyB, says fresh curbs on satellite TV could mean British sport losing vital funds.

ment recognises the concern that a core of sporting events should be freely available to the nation. But the Government is concerned that ill-thought through changes could deprive sports of a primary source of income.

Amid rumours of a cabinet disagreement, she sided with the desire of sporting bodies to seek the market rate for their events. "The Government believes the weight of responsibility should be with the sports authorities. It is they who should balance the maximisation of audience with maximisation of income. The Government plans meetings with broadcasters, consumer bodies, sports bodies and supporters' groups to canvass opinion.

In a highly unusual move a group of peers have tabled an amendment to the bill which could ensure the issue is brought back to the Lords at the end of consultation.

Lord Howell said: "The Government has displayed pure panic. It is trying to cut the Lords out of the process because it fears defeat."

Whitehall sources dismissed as nonsense suggestions that Mrs Bottomley was trying to circumvent the Lords.

A spokesman for BSkyB welcomed the initiative: "Sky Television wants to invest both money and airtime into sport and believes that this investment benefits participants at all levels and will help the continued improvements in sports facilities."

A BBC spokesman said: "The evidence is that people want action. This process gives them the opportunity to put their views and ideas to be welcomed." But the corporation expressed surprise the document was heavily reliant on data supplied by BSkyB.

Terry Blake, marketing director of the Test and County Cricket Board, said the listing of events would effectively tie its hands in seeking the most money for the sport. A joint £28 million deal with the BBC and BSkyB has helped fund local cricket.



The Derby, one of the events subscription TV would not be able to buy up

PHOTOGRAPH BY KENNETH SANDERS



Mrs Bottomley: Sliding with sporting bodies



Lord Howell: 'Government displaying pure panic'



Lord Donoghue: 'A trick to stifle debate in the Lords'

Sport on TV

Listed Events

Cannot be shown on individual pay-per-view basis, but available to subscription channels. An amendment to the Broadcasting Bill would also prevent subscription channels from exclusive access

- Cricket Test Matches involving England
- The Derby
- Grand National
- Football World Cup Finals
- FA Cup Final
- Scottish FA Cup Final
- Finals Weekend at Wimbledon
- Tennis Championships
- The Olympic Games

Sky television

- Boxing: Bout involving Frank Bruno
- Cricket: England overseas Test Matches, England home one-day internationals
- Football: FA Premier League, Football League Cup
- Golf: Ryder Cup
- Rugby League: English Super League (from March 1996)
- Rugby Union: Live coverage of club matches

Terrestrial television

- Athletics: London Marathon (BBC), Golden Four Grand Pro meetings (ITV)
- Cricket: England home Test Matches (BBC)
- Football: FA Cup (BBC, ITV from 1998), FA Premier League (BBC recorded highlights only), Euro '96 (BBC & ITV)
- Golf: British Open Championship
- Horse Racing: Grand National, Royal Ascot (BBC), The Derby (Ch 4)
- Lawn Tennis: Wimbledon (BBC until 1999)
- Motorsport: Formula One motor racing (BBC, ITV from 1997)
- Olympic Games: Summer Games (BBC until 2008)
- Rugby League: Challenge Cup/Rugby trophy (BBC until end of 1995/96 season)
- Rugby Union: Rugby Five Nations Championships (BBC until 1997)

2,000 jobs go as electricity shops close

Roger Cowe

MORE than 2,000 electricity showroom staff in the Midlands and South of England will lose their jobs with the closure of almost 200 Powerhouse shops announced yesterday.

The company's remaining 120 shops will concentrate on selling electrical goods and will stop providing services for the three electricity companies in their area, further extending the withdrawal from the high street of the privatised electricity companies.

The move by the chain, formerly owned by Eastern, Southern and Midlands electricity companies follows the sale of showrooms by London, Yorkshire and East Midlands, and the shrinking of retail chains in other areas. Only Norwich and Scottish Power have remained committed to retail operations, and they have focused on out-of-town superstores, as have competitors such as Currys and Comet. The Rumblebush chain was closed at the beginning of last year after years of losses.

The Powerhouse closures were condemned by the Labour Party, which linked the announcement to Conservative Party contributions by the parent company, Hanson, whose annual meeting this week approved a £100,000 donation.

"Before the ink has dried on its cheque to the Tories, Hanson was signing the redundancy notices for 2,300 employees," said the Labour Party shadow employment minister, Ian McCartney. "The Tory party should now give back its latest handout in protest at Hanson's behaviour, or better still donate the money to these employees to help them find another job."

The union trade union said the closures were disastrous for the high street as well as for staff. Mick Brade, southern regional officer, said his members had been treated with contempt since the electricity privatisation. "The fat cats have got fatter while my members have been kicked from pillar to post."

A union spokesman pointed out that many people used the showrooms as service points. "The implication is clearly that they are moving to a retail operation rather than a service operation," he said. The three electricity com-



An MEB Powerhouse store in Birmingham

panies have created other service operations, mainly through post offices. A spokesman said customers would be able to pay bills without charge at 2,700 post offices, while 80 would have freephone links to the company. There would also be 300 extra key-charging points in petrol stations and off-licences for meters.

Shops in the Southern region will lose almost 1,800 jobs, 850 jobs will go in former Eastern shops, while the Midlands regions will lose 700 jobs.

Powerhouse said the closures were essential because of losses resulting from intense competition in electrical retailing. The chain was formed by Eastern and Southern Electricity in 1983 in the hope of reducing the losses of the individual chains. Midlands added its retail operations in the following year.

Hanson gained part of Powerhouse when it bought up Eastern Electricity. It then bought out the shares of Midlands and Southern last spring. But losses have continued to increase, from £2 million to £7 million in 1994-5, with a further £16 million of one-off costs. Yesterday Glyn Moser, the Powerhouse chief executive appointed last March, said: "This loss-making scenario cannot continue. The plan offers our remaining staff a secure and positive future, protects the profitable core of the business and offers the prospect of a viable future for Powerhouse."

Tycoon pleads with court over inquiry

'Copperfingers' goes to law to protect his group's name

Dan Atkinson and Paul Murphy

THE commodities tycoon Charles "Copperfingers" Vincent took exceptional High Court action yesterday to protect the name of his hugely profitable Winchester Group.

Mr Vincent, whose £15 million earnings last year made him possibly Britain's highest-paid company director, applied for judicial review of an inquiry by City regulators into dealings between Winchester and Chilean copper corporation Codelco.

A compromise agreed in court means Mr Vincent will know by Thursday morning whether Winchester is to face disciplinary action from the Securities and Futures Authority, the agency which polices brokers and City deal-

ers, over its Codelco activities.

Yesterday, in what the company's QC described as an exceptional case, Winchester asked the High Court to order the SFA to conclude swiftly its inquiry into the company. The inquiry started in April 1994.

The agency had promised on Thursday to make a decision on whether to proceed within 10 days.

The SFA is looking at seven trades executed on Codelco's behalf, totalling 70,000 tonnes of copper, on January 4, 1994. Codelco is suing at least one London metal broker — not Winchester — in connection with losses of more than £132 million suffered in the early 1990s in speculative copper trading.

Separate from the SFA inquiry, Codelco's London solicitors Herbert Smith & Co are

looking into trades for the corporation during the period, including Winchester's.

In the High Court yesterday Charles Flint QC, representing Winchester, said his client wanted the SFA to reach a swift decision regarding its investigation of the Codelco matter, the only matter outstanding in its inquiry into the Hampshire group. Winchester has been cleared of the other matters.

Mr Flint said that so far the SFA had "no suggestion of any misconduct on the part of Winchester" and the agency had made this clear.

Should evidence of such misconduct come to light, he said, the SFA had pledged to make it available to Winchester for the group's response.

Mr Justice Ognall suggested that, given the SFA had undertaken to reach a decision in 10 days, a full-blown hearing and ruling seemed akin to taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

But Mr Flint told him that,

with the adverse publicity suffered by the company, 10 days was a relatively long time to wait. He added that Mr Vincent, who was in court, operated in "a market in which a company such as Winchester depends on its good name". He stressed that time was of the essence.

"I realise this is an exceptional remedy," said Mr Flint, adding that Winchester "has never sought to prevent SFA from inquiring into any matters".

Winchester's file, he said, had been with the SFA's legal department since June and under review by a senior SFA official since January 12.

The judge brokered a deal between Winchester and SFA whereby the latter agreed that, by the close of business next Wednesday, it will have written to Winchester with its decision on the inquiry. Should any misconduct have come to light, the evidence will be presented to Winchester. Otherwise, the inquiry will be closed.

Trail of cyber-sex, lies and floppy disks ends in divorce suit

Ian Katz in New York

JOHAN GOYDAN did not have to hire a private detective to confirm his suspicions that his wife was having an affair. Nor did he need to read her letters or eavesdrop on her telephone calls. He watched the whole thing — on his computer screen.

In a cautionary tale of sex, lies and floppy disks in the new information age, the New Jersey husband has become the first person to sue for divorce on the grounds that his spouse allegedly committed adultery in cyberspace.

His wife, Diane, never met the PC paramour with whom

she flirted electronically for months. "We haven't laid a finger on each other," she wrote in one e-mail message. "But I guess it'll be a different story in a couple of weeks."

Mr Goydan, who works for a computer company, became suspicious in October when he returned home early from work to find his wife surreptitiously printing out something from her computer.

He began reading her e-mail messages and found electronic missives from a man calling himself the Weasel, but whose real name is said to be Ray. In one, he boasted he was a master of deception.

Messages sent by Mr Goydan's wife were scarcely more

reassuring. She told the Weasel she wanted to be with him that night "so we could do this rumble/rumble quietly and in bed in flannel night-shirts (no pants)".

The couple swapped "proxy kisses" and erotic fantasies, and on Christmas Eve The Weasel wrote Mrs Goydan a poem: "Twas the night before Christmas, and all did seem right/The Weasel and Diane were planning their night."

In his divorce suit, Mr Goydan claims his wife and her cyber-lover planned a secret assignation this month, but he concedes that their affair was never consummated.

His lawyer, Richard Hurley, said that while the couple

had not engaged in "actual intercourse," he is not sure where technology is taking us these days. Other divorce lawyers doubt that Mrs Goydan's electronic betrayal constitutes evidence of adultery.

The case will send a shiver through the thousands of computer users engaged in what they believed were discreet affairs on the Internet and so-called on-line services that have become the singles bars of the 1990s.

Aware of her husband's suspicions, Mrs Goydan warned her lover, who is also married, to "get rid of that paper trail". But she could not erase the electronic trail left by her affair.

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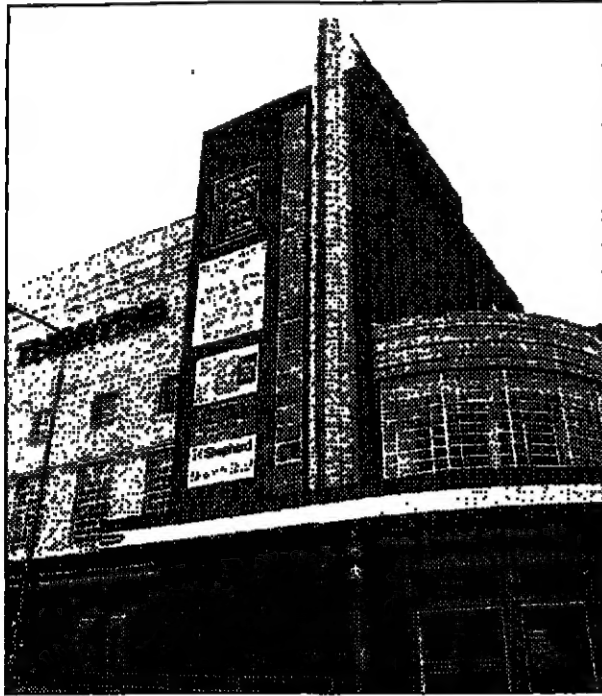
Asked whether the past year has given him more or less respect for the press, Lord Wakeham says: "Probably more, and strangely enough, more respect for the tabloids. The truth of the matter is that the tabloids are in a highly competitive business, fighting on the very margins of what is possible and what is not possible to say."

Megan Tresidder Outlook page 17

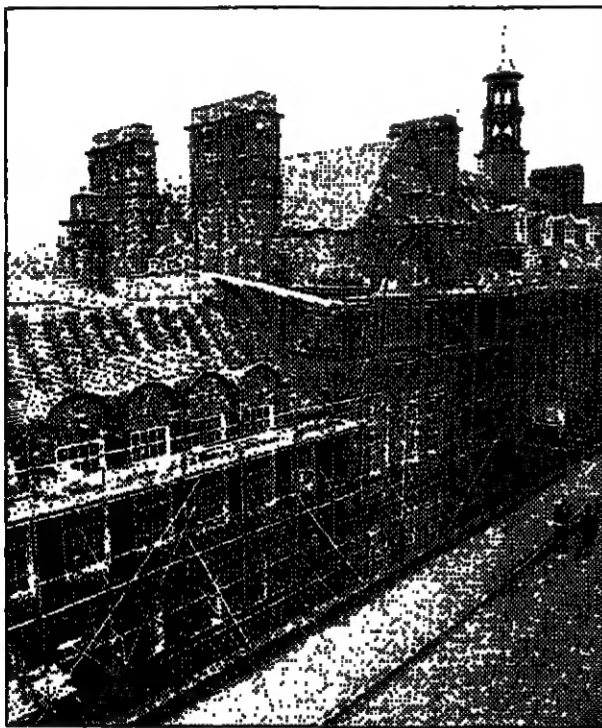


Stephen Joseph Theatre staff in Scarborough moving wardrobe items to their new £5 million home nearby

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY BARTHOLOMEW



The new theatre, housed in a 1930s town-centre cinema



The old theatre, which reverts to a college after tonight

WHEN the curtain goes down tonight on Alan Ayckbourn's bleak comedy *Just Between Ourselves*, it will mark the end of an unusual artistic union. For Ayckbourn is leaving the tiny Scarborough theatre where he has launched all but three of his 49 plays in the last 20 years.

But he is not going far. Britain's most successful living playwright is moving just 300 yards down the road to plushier quarters - a 1930s art deco former Odeon cinema converted at a cost of £5.1 million.

It is the fulfilment of a five-year dream made possible by a £1.5 million National Lottery grant, a vigorous fundraising drive and two big individual donations (including £400,000 from Ayckbourn).

He has described leaving the Stephen Joseph Theatre in a former grammar school as akin to parting with "a familiar friend". But he also accepts the move is long overdue.

"There will be a real mixture of joy and sadness when we close the doors behind us," said Jeannie Swales, publicity officer for the theatre. "The place has become too small and ramshackled for us, but it holds very happy memories."

The new two-theatre complex will offer state-of-the-art technology, including a magnificent stage lift and audiences will be more familiar with in a big city than a seaside town.

"We are moving in to the big league now," insisted Ms Swales. The theatre will, though, maintain its tradition as one of the few repertory companies not operating a star performer system. Ayckbourn writes at least one play a year, with each performed in Scarborough by jobbing actors before going to the West End or Broadway with big-name casts.

The new Stephen Joseph Theatre will open at the end of April with *By Jeeves*, a rewritten musical collaboration with Andrew Lloyd Webber, first performed in 1975.

One Ayckbourn curtain rises as another falls

Angela Johnson on a £5m scene change

Sentence 'signals loss of faith in psychiatric help'

Ten life terms for knifings in shop

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A MAN with a history of mental illness who ran amok and knifed 15 women in a department store at Christmas 1994 was given 10 life sentences at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

It was the second time in two days that a mental patient had been sent to prison rather than to a secure hospital. Mental health campaigners said it signalled a complete loss of faith in the ability of the psychiatric services to deal with violent offenders.

David Morgan, aged 31, of Aston, Birmingham, received the sentences after admitting nine offences of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and one of assault. His random attacks took place in Rackhams store in the city centre.

Morgan had attacked the women with a kitchen knife and a butcher's knife as they shopped in the store's cosmetics department. It was only after he had slashed 15 women that he was subdued. According to relatives, Morgan was profoundly affected by his father's death in 1988 and ceased to talk. He became obsessed with militarism and had a hatred of women.

He was admitted to Birmingham's All Saints Psychiatric Hospital, where he was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia, hypomania and depressive psychosis. He was prescribed lithium car-



David Morgan: schizophrenic depressive who hated women

bonate, which seemed to help. He was released with directions that he should receive support from the community psychiatric team. But Adrian Fulford QC, defending told the court: "It appears from the records that effectively there was no follow-up at all."

In 1992 and 1993 Morgan was conditionally discharged by magistrates after two attacks on women in the street. Two months before the Rackhams attacks he told his GP of his thoughts of attacking women. He was referred to a psychiatrist, who said he could find no signs of mental illness.

Morgan also pleaded guilty to assaulting Steve Messenger, a psychiatric nurse, at Ashworth high security hospital while on remand last December. He had slashed the nurse's throat with a razor blade.

Mr Justice Igor Judge told Morgan: "There can be no doubt that you are an ex-

remely dangerous man. It is certain you must be detained until you cease to represent a risk to public safety. If that time never comes, so be it." He recommended that he should not be considered for parole for at least 12 years.

A defence application for further psychiatric reports to see if Morgan could be detained in a psychiatric hospital was refused by the judge.

Mr Fulford said his client had given warning of his mental state. "He was expressing great concern about thoughts and feelings which he had... This was a very depressed man who was asking for some assistance."

Afterwards Tracey Hitchmough, aged 28, a former Rackhams security officer, who received 21 stitches in a throat wound, said: "I'm glad it's all over. I hate him. He's changed my life completely. My personality has changed, and I can't do things that I used to."

Mental health campaigners saw the sentence as a sign that Britain was following the US in jailing mentally ill offenders rather than treating them in hospital. Marjorie Wallace of the charity Sane said: "It is a terrible indictment of the psychiatric system." She called for an end to bed closures and for more psychiatric units to be built.

On Thursday Wayne Hutchinson, aged 21, received six life terms at the Old Bailey after killing two people, trying to shoot one person and wounding three others while on home leave from a mental hospital.

Head avoids discipline

Shepherd refuses to bar teacher who 'covered up child abuse'

Gary Young

THE Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, has refused to bar a former headteacher implicated in covering up the abuse of disabled children at a special school near Leeds, it emerged yesterday.

Mentally and physically disabled children were sworn at, denied food and slapped by a member of staff over 10 years at the school, run by Scope, formerly the Spastics Society, an internal investigation revealed.

The charity admitted that the headteacher had lied to parents, governors and the social services, when he denied that the abuse had taken place. He had also flouted both the law and child protection procedures when he

failed to report allegations of abuse to the social services. He was suspended in 1994 pending an investigation and resigned from the school before its conclusions were known. He has not been disciplined.

In May last year a parent whose child attended the Hawksworth Hall School at Guiseley, West Yorkshire, which has been granted approved status by the Department for Education and Employment, asked the department to comment on whether the headteacher would be permitted to work with children with special needs again.

"Do you think it is suitable or moral for such a person to seek a position of responsibility in special education?" asked Kevin O'Toole, a former parent governor whose

14-year-old daughter Siân left the school in 1994.

In August the department replied: "Having received the full report from Scope the Secretary of State has concluded that no further action would be appropriate on her part so far as any individual is concerned." It was conceded that Mrs Shephard had the power to "consider barring action" under the terms of the Education (Teachers) Regulation 1993.

Mr O'Toole said: "If deliberately lying about the abuse of disabled children doesn't warrant someone being barred from doing this kind of job then you have to wonder what it would take."

A spokeswoman for the department said last night: "We have considered all the information and do not consider that any action is necessary."

Parents of 14 disabled children abused at the school are taking private legal action after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped the case last month.

Planners try new tricks to thwart old bill stickers

Gary Young

BILL stickers is an elusive criminal. For years he has ignored well publicised threats of his imminent brush with the law. But now Swansea city council is getting tough. Tired of warning fly-posters that "Bill Stickers will be prosecuted", it has approved a novel method to prevent those organising nightclubs and political meetings

from touting their wares on the city walls.

The council's planning committee has decided to arm street cleaners, litter wardens, and planning officers with "cancelled" stickers which they can paste on to offending posters.

Hit squads will also be sent around the city on Sundays to rip down all the posters they find. "While this initially involves a significant effort, it soon becomes effective as the

number of posters decreases due to the knowledge that they will only be in place for a very limited period," said planning director David Wilson.

"Where successful prosecutions have been made, the fine is, in my opinion, inadequate to act as a deterrent," he added, citing the case of a flyposter last year who was given a conditional discharge and made to pay £10 costs to the council.

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سكنا من الاجل

Arthur Scargill and his party were far from being the toast of the breakfast after the night before, reports David Ward Hemsworth's New Labour MP tastes sweet victory

THE new Labour (or New Labour) MP for Hemsworth yesterday grasped a bottle of HP sauce and shook a large metaphorical dollop of the brown stuff all over Arthur Scargill. Jon Trickett, still relishing his 72 per cent share of the vote, had turned up for a victory breakfast with his wife Sarah and party workers at the council offices (a former convent) in South Kirkby, West Yorkshire.

As a forkful of scrambled egg hurtled into his mouth, his boot went into the founder of the Socialist Labour Party, whose candidate Brenda Nixon polled just under 2,000 votes.

"Everywhere you went in the campaign, it was Scargill," he recalled. "I don't think we heard Mrs Nixon speak until yesterday. This was Arthur Scargill's show and he ought to have stood. But he lacked the moral courage to stand and be associated with that kind of defeat. I think it was a disgraceful performance on his part."

Ms Nixon said the rules of the National Union of Mineworkers prevented Mr Scargill from standing for Parliament. She also rubbed Mr Trickett's nose in his grilled tomato by reminding him that Labour had pre-

J Trickett (Lab) 15,817 (71.9%)
N Nixon (C) 1,942 (8.8%)
D Ridgway (L/D) 1,516 (6.8%)
B Nixon (S Lab) 1,193 (5.4%)
Majority 13,875

Other candidates: Peggy Alexander (Green) 187; Michael Cooper (Independent Democrat) 111; Peter Davies (UK Independent) 458; Diane Loughton (Natural Law) 28; Lord Sush (Official Monster Raving Looney) 52; Mark Thomas (Mark Thomas Friday Nights Channel 4) 122.

Swing 5.4% Con to Lab
Turnout 39.5%

General election 1992: David Wright (Lab) 29,842; Garnet Harrison (Con) 7,867; Valerie Megson (Lib Dem) 4,456; Labour majority 22,975; Turnout 75.9%.



The SLP's Brenda Nixon: "What I said was unreported"

believe in Arthur's policies — I'd sooner support the Greens, who believe in what they say. He's just feathering his own nest."

But some, including Colin Mears, a traditional Labour voter with a shopping bag, were prepared to be generous. "Arthur's making his way through life. He was unlucky with the miners' strike and lost because the Notts miners worked. Let the man do what he wants. It's up to him and I think he's all right. If it was tight and I fancied his policies more than the Labour man, he'd get my vote."

His friend Sammy Davies, invalidated out of the pits when he was 53, was equally kind. Of course the SLP was right to field a candidate. "The more there are, the better the selection," he said.

Back in the former convent, as catering staff fed the media gloriously greasy Old Labour bacon sandwiches, Mr Trickett recalled a warm gesture from an opponent.

A fringe candidate had abandoned his own interest and urged voters to support Labour. He followed Mr Trickett with a small red carpet, causing it to bear his feet at photo opportunities, below at Mr Trickett: "You are a god!" He lost his deposit.

dicted she would come last and lose her deposit. "I don't think Mr Scargill was my mouthpiece at all," she said. "But because of who he is, he is bound to attract a lot of attention. When I did speak, what I said often went unreported."

Mr Trickett reached for another slice of toast and went on the marmalade offensive.

"Almost everyone I met had been or was related to someone who had been a member of the NUM. Mr Scargill touched the lives of many of those people. He was going round on the stump introducing himself as the union's president. But none of that appeal to traditional loyalties

made a ha'p'orth of difference to people who were determined to vote Labour and did so." This view was broadly echoed a couple of miles away in South Elmsall, where the removal men were loading Labour's triumphant photocopyer into a van and the Lib Dem across the road were unsticking their David Ridgway posters at the end of a campaign which itself had come unstuck. The shops they occupied will rejoin many others in the town waiting for tenants.

In the market (3lb of conference pears for 50p; selected steam puddings 55p), one visitor took a hard line. "I don't



Sauce of satisfaction... Jon Trickett and his wife, Sarah, celebrate his 72 per cent vote share. PHOTOGRAPH DON ALPHEE

Local heat over Harman cools

Alex Bellis

AGRASSROOTS revolt against Harriet Harman fizzled out yesterday after attempts to call for her resignation failed at branch meetings of her constituency Labour Party.

Activists in Peckham, angered by the shadow health secretary's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school outside the area, appear to have buried the hatchet. They will support her at the constituency's next general committee meeting on February 15.

John Friary, a Labour councillor who had wanted Mrs Harman to resign from the shadow cabinet, said: "She made things difficult for the party, but then there is absolutely no question of us being dissatisfied with her work as an MP. I think everyone supports her now."

The closest rebels got to giving their MP problems at Thursday's nine annual branch meetings, where councillors seek re-election to the general committee, was in St Giles ward, where a proposal for an emergency motion calling for her resignation was defeated by 21 to 6.

Similar proposals failed to materialise at the other

branches, but the meeting of Brunswick branch, which has perhaps the most vocal anti-Harman members, was not quorate.

Clare Cosens, chairman of the local Labour Party, said she had had no telephone calls from any of its 760 members on the issue. "There is no groundswell of opinion. There are not people separately turning up to meetings to have a go at Harriet."

A straw poll of Labour voters on Peckham High Street indicated that the furore, which gave Tony Blair his worst week since he became leader, was unlikely to hit the party at the ballot box.

Gillian Chinweokwu, a housewife aged 48, said: "I think she should have sent her son locally. I agree with the posters against her that say 'Do as I say, not as I do'. But I would not stop voting for her. She does do a lot of good. She listens to what people have to say."

Joe Hunt, aged 77, said: "It's not been a big deal locally. If I could afford to send my kids to a better school I would. She's doing a good job."

Ros Ether, aged 32, unemployed, said: "She is quite within her rights. It is not Labour's fault that schools are selective. She is making the best of a bad mess."

Blair seeks ways to boost links with party membership

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair has ordered a review of how a better relationship can be forged between a future Labour government and its 380,000 strong membership, including the party national executive.

Mr Blair, and his party general secretary Tom Sawyer, want a new party structure and culture which could avert a repeat of the disastrous break-down in relations between party and government in the Winter of Discontent in 1978-79.

They are keen to try new ways of involving the party's membership and believe the national executive's primary role should be as a sympathetic conduit between membership and government.

Mr Sawyer said: "The general perception last time was that a Labour government had failed the party. On one hand, Tony Benn led the NEC and, on the other, Jim Callaghan led the government and parliamentary party. Next time we want to have a working partnership between the party and the government. That involves better communication between the two, but it also needs a public recognition from the NEC that its

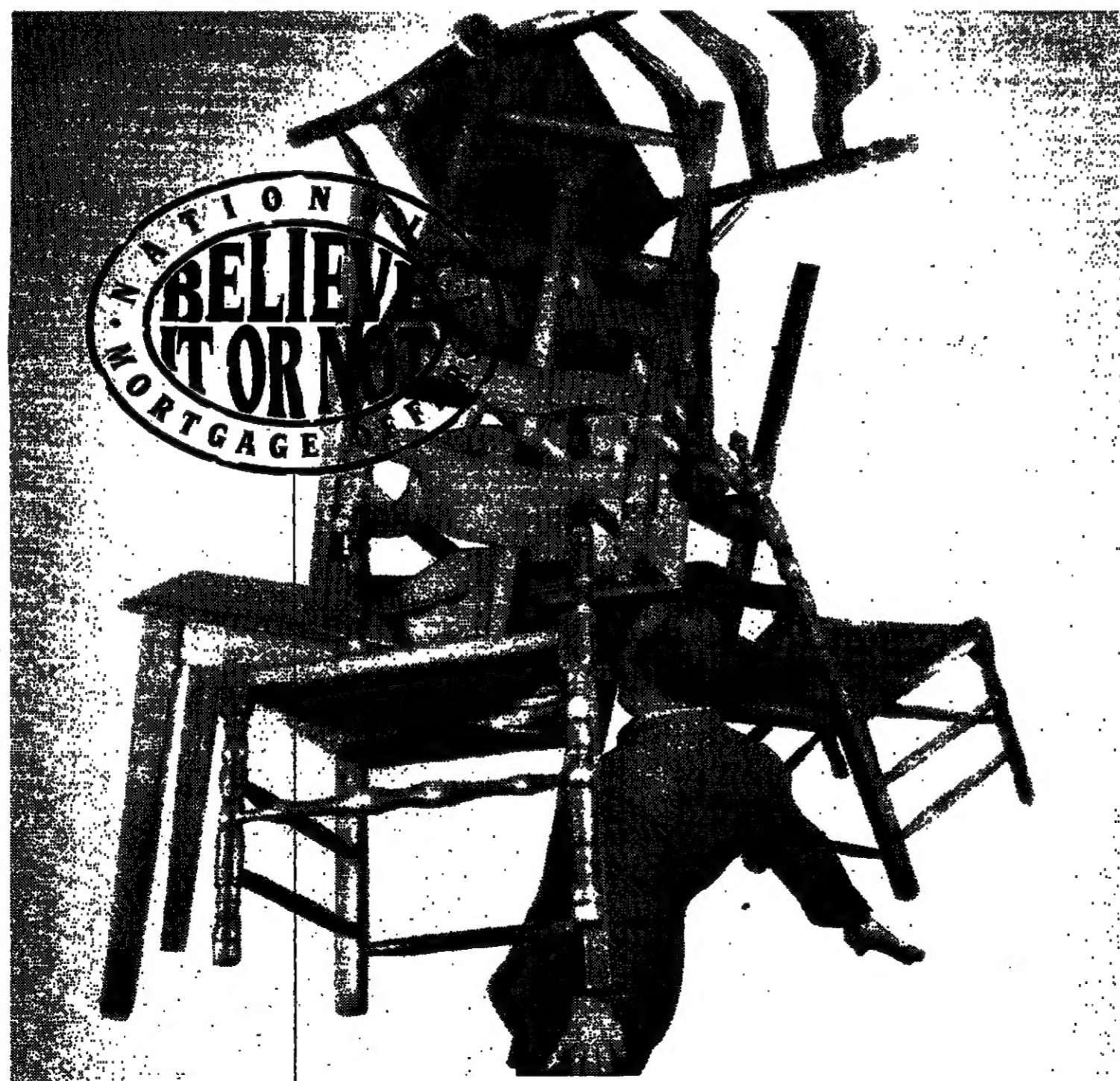
role is to support the leadership, and communicate with the party, and not just to be on guard for betrayals by the leadership. The party must not be left on the sidelines, as Tony says 'Bye, bye, I am PM now'."

The project, entitled The Party in Power, is being overseen by the NEC itself with the help of management consultants. Mr Sawyer hopes brainstorming sessions by NEC members working in four task groups will produce big reforms in four areas — to the NEC's method of working, its relations with a Labour government, the party's democracy and party activism on the ground.

Dennis Skinner, the only NEC member to reject the inquiry, has already voiced left-wing suspicions that the project is designed to eliminate potential points of resistance within the party to a Blair-led government.

He has speculated Mr Blair wants to introduce biennial party conferences and turn the NEC into a cheerleader in the party for the leadership.

He said: "We don't need management consultants to tell us that the relations between the party and a Labour government will not be good. It follows like night follows day."



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Defiant Serbs try to hold on to Croatian territory

Zagreb threatens to seize Eastern Slavonia if its leaders attempt to scuttle the peace deal, writes Chris Hedges in Vukovar

THE 130,000 Serbs in Eastern Slavonia are trying to undermine a provision in the Dayton peace agreement which calls for them to relinquish this last slice of Serbian-held territory in Croatia. Serb authorities in the contested region have refused to acknowledge publicly that it will be reintegrated into Croatia. Since last week they have been broadcasting television and radio announcements urging the 30,000 Serbian refugees who were driven out of other parts of Croatia — and are now in Serbia — to settle in the territory. A Serb majority would hinder the resettlement of Croats, Muslims and others who fled and who are entitled to return under the Dayton deal.

Before the war, there were 68,000 Serbs and 125,000 ethnic Croats, Hungarians, Muslims and other ethnic groups in Eastern Slavonia. But only a few hundred non-Serbs, most elderly and infirm, remain. Rebel Serbs captured a third of Croatia in 1991 but last year Croatian troops, in a series of attacks, retook most of the Serbian-held territory, driving more than 200,000 Serbs into Serbia. Eastern Slavonia and Serbian-held Bosnia. Serb leaders in Eastern Slavonia continue to issue defiant and vitriolic statements against Croatia, a sign that the hostility which led to war in 1991 after Croatia declared independence will continue to threaten prospects for enduring peace. In recent days Croatian officials have warned that, if the Serbs in Eastern Slavonia try to scuttle the peace agreement, Croatia's army will seize the region by force. Croatia's foreign minister, Mate Granic, warned that any obstruction or delay in carrying out the deal "would be tantamount to the prospect of a renewed conflict". Eastern Slavonia, a region of about 100 square miles bordering Serbia, with fertile plains and oil, is due to be handed back to Croatia by the Serbs within a year — although this deadline can be extended by another year. But what is set down on paper has yet to be accepted by most people in the region, about 80,000 of whom were driven from their homes in other parts of Croatia. The United States ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, who met local residents on Tuesday, was greeted with jeers when he



talked of "the inevitable return of Croatian authority". During the transition period, the United Nations will administer the region, backed by 5,000 troops. Several hundred more block the roads leading out of the enclave to prevent an exodus into Serbia. The Serbs in Eastern Slavonia insist that there will be ways to roll back the Dayton agreement. "Croatia must allow the Serbs expelled from the Krajina [region in southern Croatia] and other areas to return to their homes," said Slavko Dokmanovic, Vukovar's mayor. "This is part of this peace agreement. If they do not, the Serbs and the Croatian authorities are still allowed to come in here, we will have been cheated by the international community." — New York Times



Action men... Strikers leave the Yesaulskaya pit near Novokuznetsk after carrying out essential maintenance

France faces new round of industrial stoppages

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

AS France faces a new round of industrial action, the government yesterday attempted to pass the buck to employers by lambasting them for not creating jobs. Unions have backed the Communist-led CGT in calling for a week of action starting on Monday to protest at changes to the welfare system and to press for a shorter working week. In the built-up to the demonstrations and limited stoppages, the prime minister, Alain Juppé, alienated the employers' confederation by accusing businesses of pocketing job-creation grants without shortening dole queues. Inspired by an outburst last week by President Jacques Chirac, Mr Juppé said: "We will not further reduce employers' social charges unless we feel we are getting something for something, such as a massive pledge to employ young people."

Hard-core drug explosion kicks Athens into action

The fastest growing rate of addiction in Europe has forced the government to change its policy, writes Helena Smith

BEFORE Billie came to 40 Eressou Street she had given up hope in life. For two years she had waited for the clinic in the grimy Athens back street to open. By the time it did, last week, she had lost her last "good vein" and was sniffing the heroin that had brought her to its door. Now she hopes to be one of thousands of hard-core Greek drug users who can kick the habit with the help of methadone, the heroin substitute which has just been officially introduced to the country. "I'm 36 and never thought I'd reach the age of 50," the British-born former secretary said, rubbing her glazed eyes. "I'd tried every possible cure and had my 'off' periods but always turned to 'gear' again. I was a prisoner and now I'm starting to feel free." Its location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and its long coastline have long made Greece a significant entrepot for drugs, but it was also seen as a country free from drug use. In the last few years, however, it has developed Europe's fastest growing rate of hard-core addiction. It has 100,000 heroin addicts in a population of 10 million, compared to the 30,000 currently registered in the Netherlands, whose population is half as big again. Heroin deaths have risen from five in 1980 to 87 in 1990 and 180 last year. The increase has caused widespread dismay, not least among the poor, where drug abuse is said to have assumed epidemic proportions.

After years of ignoring it, the authorities have finally begun to tackle the problem. Last year the Socialist government allocated the biggest part of its welfare budget to creating the Organisation Against Narcotics (Oksana), to administer a annual 2 billion drachma drug prevention programme. Last week, almost 20 years after Britain adopted the substitute, it began methadone programmes in Athens and Salonika. The two centres complement an array of closed and controversial "therapeutic communities" where addicts are forced to take the harsh "drug-free" treatment. "Drug addiction is our biggest social problem and it's getting worse every year," said Christina Kokkoris, a neurologist and psychiatrist who heads the Athens programme. "Being a very conservative society, we were very slow in developing ways of dealing with it. People thought it was far too radical for the state to employ the ultimate measure of substitution treatment." Since he began the pilot programme, Dr Kokkoris's telephone has not stopped ringing. His 200 places were oversubscribed almost the day it was announced. "Fifteen years ago I was accused of being crazy when I advocated the use of methadone," he said. "Now parents who are desperate to get their children in here call all the time." The alarming rise in teenage addiction — a recent sur-

vey showed that one in three pupils had experimented with drugs — has spurred the government into adopting a national narcotics awareness campaign. In the autumn teachers and municipal workers began three-month training courses so that they can counsel children in school hours. "It's absolutely essential that we do this now if we are to crack this problem in the next decade," said Stephanos Maniatis, who chairs Oksana. "As Greece has become more developed, drugs have got trendy: suddenly we've got kids regularly taking 'week-end' ecstasy pills in nightclubs across the country." But many believe that real headway can be made only when Athens relaxes its stringent anti-drug laws, which prohibit doctors treating addicts. They have been blamed for the overcrowded jails, 60 per cent of whose inmates, foreign and Greek, are serving drug-related sentences. Many are arrested on the islands, where local addicts and traffickers traditionally flock during the summer months. In recent years several British tourists caught in possession of soft drugs have been given heavy prison terms. "The laws are so repressive that they make no distinction between soft and hard drugs, or addicts, drug dealers and non-addict users," said Dr Eleonitis Orvas, a psychiatricist. "They are directly linked to Greece's dramatic increase in drug trafficking, drug use, and drug addiction. "It's high time that addicts began to be treated as patients and not criminals. You only have to look at Britain and Holland to see that it works."

Minister warns of catastrophe as Russian coal strike continues

THE Russian government met mining industry leaders yesterday on the second day of a national coal strike in protest at delayed wages to try to limit the economic and political damage. Miners in Ukraine and Romania also struck to demand measures to soften the impact on the industry of market reforms.

The Russian coalmining monopoly Rosugol said six more pits had joined the strike since it began on Thursday, bringing the total to 124. Interfax news agency said. Thirteen open-cast mines had resumed work, leaving 14 still out, it said. Union leaders said 80 per cent of the industry, which employs 750,000 workers, was on strike.

The first deputy prime minister, Vladimir Kadiornikov, a former car factory boss handed a troublesome role within days of his appointment, met management and union leaders to try to dispel tensions. Vitaly Bodko, leader of the miners union Rosugolprofsoyuz, said Mr Kadiornikov had promised mea-

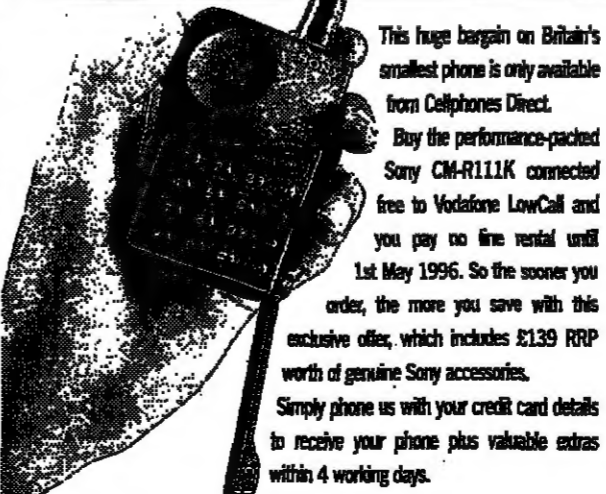
sures to solve the problem at the beginning of next week. But Vladimir Kadiornikov, a former car factory boss handed a troublesome role within days of his appointment, met management and union leaders to try to dispel tensions. Vitaly Bodko, leader of the miners union Rosugolprofsoyuz, said Mr Kadiornikov had promised mea-

Tajik army halts 'coup attempt' by rebel troops

Rebels in Dushanbe

TAJIK government troops yesterday pushed back a mutinous army force that had advanced towards the capital, Dushanbe, to press demands for the dismissal of the government of the central Asian former Soviet republic. Eyewitnesses said the rebel Colonel Mahmud Khudoyberdiyev had retreated to a mountain pass after advancing to within 10 miles of the city and being confronted by pro-government soldiers and tanks. "There was no fighting as the rebels, who remain loyal to the Tajik president, Imomali Rakhmonov, were reluctant to fight the presidential guards and irregulars, the witnesses said. The rebels are now camped about 20 miles from Dushanbe, but they have not dropped demands for the sacking of a government they condemn as incompetent and corrupt. President Rakhmonov, who was supported by Col Khudoyberdiyev during the civil war in 1992, told parliament that the rebels' action amounted to an attempted military coup. But he said he would meet them for talks if they gave up their weapons and surrendered. He also suggested he was ready to sack some ministers to avert violence. "Everything must be done to avoid bloodshed," Mr Rakhmonov was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. In Washington, the state department warned United States citizens not to travel to Tajikistan because of the crisis. US citizens inside the country were told to stay at home.

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Britain gets EU warning

John Palmer in Brussels

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl issued a veiled warning to the British government yesterday that it should not try to deflect other European Union countries from moving ahead to monetary union and closer political union. His remarks will be seen as a direct rebuke to senior British figures, including the former Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, who has asked Germany to propose postponing the planned move to a single currency in 1999. In an address at Louvain University near Brussels, the German chancellor served notice that the pace of European integration would not be set by those who wanted to slow progress to closer union. Mr Kohl said the single currency project was going through a period of uncertainty but he insisted that "the policy of European integration actually comes down to a question of peace or war for the 21st century". He stressed that "it is no use following the ostrich policy." The chancellor did not men-

tion the British government by name, but it was clear whom he had in mind. "During the next few years we will have to prove that a viable Europe can be built with 15 and more states," he said. "The slowest ship in the convoy should not be allowed to determine its speed. If individual partners are not prepared or able to participate in certain steps towards integration, the others should not be denied the opportunity to move forward." Mr Kohl was referring not only to British moves to slow monetary union, but more generally to British opposition to measures to strengthen political decision-making in the EU. These issues will be at the heart of next month's inter-governmental conference in Turin to review the Maastricht treaty. Mr Kohl underlined Germany's commitment to a radical enlargement of the EU to eastern Europe. "I would regard it as a disaster if Europe's strength were to diminish with its enlargement. However, I would find it disastrous if Europe were only able to ensure its strength by keeping others out."

He denounced the "current fashion to create pessimism" about monetary union and European integration: "Have Europeans become tired of Europe again? I do not believe this is really the case. He said the path to closer union set out in the Maastricht treaty calls for a considerable effort on everybody's part. Senior German government officials say there is no question of Mr Kohl or President Chirac raising the issue of postponing the 1999 deadline for monetary union in Turin. British government sources said last week that the entire monetary union project would face a "credibility crisis" within months. In his address Mr Kohl said that if the Maastricht review conference were to fail, "it will take considerably longer than one generation before we are given such an opportunity again". In spite of the Government's declared opposition, he reiterated his support for more majority vote decisions — even in areas of foreign policy and security — as well as a greater role for the European Parliament.

Economic notebook, page 23

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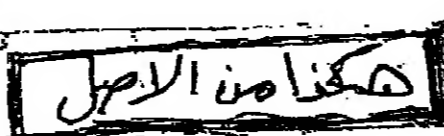
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Limping giant beats a slow retreat

Unloved and underfunded – the once fearsome military machine of the Soviet era has collapsed, forcing nationalists to fire the only salvos they have left against the West: threats. **David Hearst** in Moscow reports on their emergent doctrine

A NEW concept of national security is emerging in senior Russian military, political and intelligence circles which would make any enlargement of Nato to the three Baltic states a cause for war.

One senior defence analyst – the author of a draft national security doctrine that could well be put into practice under a new president – said: "Accepting the Baltics into Nato would be as provocative to us as the deployment of nuclear missiles on Cuba was to Washington. Accepting Poland and Hungary into Nato means a cold peace, while an enlargement to include the Baltics is war."

The doctrine being elaborated by the independent and highly influential Institute of Defence Studies in Moscow determines the territory of the former Soviet Union as the zone of "basic Russian national interests". The army's main task would not only be the defence of national territory and the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, but the defence of the rights of 25 million Russians in the "near abroad".

Russia's potential adversaries are defined as the United States and Nato. Their main allies are defined as Ukraine, China and Iran.

Anton Surikov is a research fellow at the institute and is an aide to Yuri Maslukov, the former politburo member and a key figure in Russia's military-industrial complex who has re-emerged as chairman of the economic committee in the Duma and Kremlin.

Mr Surikov said: "The more radical points of this document must be seen as responsive measures if the position of the West develops into the worst scenario for Russia. The Baltic states can play a very good role as a bridge between Russia and the West. But it cannot be a zone where Nato infrastructures are to be deployed.

"If Nato began its evolution towards a political structure, that would be another thing – but today what we have is the real possibility of Nato military infrastructures moving towards our borders and this is what provokes concern. All the talk of Russian aggressiveness is a bluff. The West really understands that Russia is technically in no position to invade."

The growing weakness of Russian conventional forces, graphically illustrated by their inability after 14 months to crush just 6,000 separatist fighters in Chechnya, is making the military planners of a nationalist Russia even more reliant upon the country's nuclear deterrent.

Without the satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe, Russian generals see themselves in a position analogous to Western Europe at the height of Soviet military power. Outgunned by the overwhelming might of Nato's conventional forces, Russia would have to rely on nuclear weapons as its main deterrent.

The concept of national security elaborated by the institute, extreme though it appears, is not radically at

odds with what the army top brass themselves think.

Vladimir Slipchenko, the vice-president of the Academy of Military Science, is a retired Major-General and an authority on Russian military doctrine and its reform.

Professor Slipchenko said: "On the territory of potential Nato members, a potential military theatre is being prepared with a network of airports, communications and command systems. We are looking with concern at how Hungarian airports are being used by Nato for the operation in Bosnia."

Since the end of the Soviet Union, the Russian army has seen itself as on the retreat. Its size has gone from more than 4 million men to 1.5 million. Its best equipped and trained units once stationed in Germany, Poland and the Baltics have been withdrawn and, with no place to house them, disbanded.

Many of the second-rate units that were already stationed in Russia remained untouched. They have now become undermanned, underfunded and in no condition to go into service. Many units have 20 per cent fewer officers than they need to operate

at battle strength. At the rank of "praporshchik", the Russian equivalent of sergeant, the degree of undermanning rises to 30 per cent and, in the ranks, some units are operating at 50 per cent below battle strength.

The problem with having thousands of units operating under strength creates bizarre sights. Senior officers are often seen doing soldiers' jobs: at the controls of a tank, or even operating the lift to the control bunker of an air-defence unit in Moscow.

One of the Russian soldiers killed trying to stop the Chechen commando escaping from the Dagestani border village of Pervomayskaya was an officer of the rank of colonel. He was leading a unit of only 20 or so men – doing a lieutenant's job.

Reformers do not have a problem with numbers. They argue the ideal size of a modern, professional Russian army should be about 1 million. There are, in fact, currently about 8 million men under arms, apart from the armed forces, under General Pavel Grachev, rival services compete for resources.

As a result of the refusal by most army units to storm the former parliament in October

1993, and now as a result of the quagmire in Chechnya, Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, has grown to rely upon interior ministry (MVD) forces.

In consequence, the MVD "army" has burgeoned to about 300,000 men. There is now talk of it getting its own tanks and helicopter gunships.

Prof Slipchenko says the chaos caused by rivalry between enforcement ministries goes all the way to the top: "We have a plethora of enforcement structures, but we don't have a united armed forces of the Russian Federation. Everyone, particularly the Russian mass media, has been blaming the army for the lack of reforms – but this is unfair. The defence ministry can't reorganise itself without a complex of measures by the state which take in all the other enforcement ministries and the military-industrial complex."

There were attempts to present the cutbacks in troops, and the withdrawal from many territories, as reforms, but this has nothing to do with it. The armed forces have just been left to take care of themselves. Everyone has forgotten about them. The president had given them neither a plan nor money.

Not all branches of the armed forces are embroiled in chaos. There are well prepared and equipped land and air-defence and well trained and guarded strategic rocket forces units. But the underfunding of the army is a fact of life. In 1994 it actually received just 46 per cent of the money allocated to it by parliament, in 1993 just 50 per cent and this year just 70 per cent. This means that it has only got money for the first seven months of this year and, thereafter, could potentially grind to a halt.

Three years ago Prof Slipchenko saw the opposition first-hand when he visited Fort Sill, in Oklahoma. There, he spoke to a US soldier manning a self-propelled gun.

"That man had served for 18 years – he was like a professor," he said. "He knew everything about his gun. Tanks, some units are operating on a Russian 19-year-old conscript, spending a year and a half in the army? Its like chalk and cheese. An American soldier earns about \$800 (€500) a month. This is more than the salary of Russia's defence minister."

The absence of political leadership is demoralising. Anton Surikov of the defence institute said: "One of the main problems of the army is the fact that their commander-in-chief, Yeltsin, considers the armed forces not as a means of defence of the country, but of himself. As he now considers that the army is less loyal to him, a very big part of the budget now goes to the Ministry of the Interior."

It is calculations such as these – as well as bitter experience of war in the North Caucasus – that is the real motive behind a large number of their captives slipped through the sloppy cordon and escaped – many of the Russian troops were cold, hungry and isolated.

One interior ministry soldier said all he had eaten in four days was a loaf of bread and four tins of sprats.

Of the 50 members of the Moscow SOBR unit, four were killed in the fighting, 13 were injured and 20 were hospitalised with frostbite and pneumonia.

Only senior unit commanders had maps of Pervomayskaya, and these were not really maps at all but photocopies of what the village had been supposed to

look like according to Soviet planners.

The batteries for the radio headsets of the SOBR and Alpha units quickly gave out when the attack began, and there was nowhere to recharge them. There were no spares.

Even when radios worked, frequencies were never properly allocated and units had to communicate either through relays of up to four operators – or by runner.

Despite the chaos, SOBR units did manage to penetrate deep inside the village, and it remains a mystery why they did not establish a bridgehead – presumably because they had not expected such losses and were not prepared for hand-to-hand fighting.

As in the battle for Grozny, the Chechen capital, the troops on the ground had little or no control over air and artillery support which was as much a danger to them as to the enemy.

A village filled with dug-in armed fighters and randomly located civilian hostages was an exceptionally difficult tactical objective if federal troops had any intention of saving the captives.

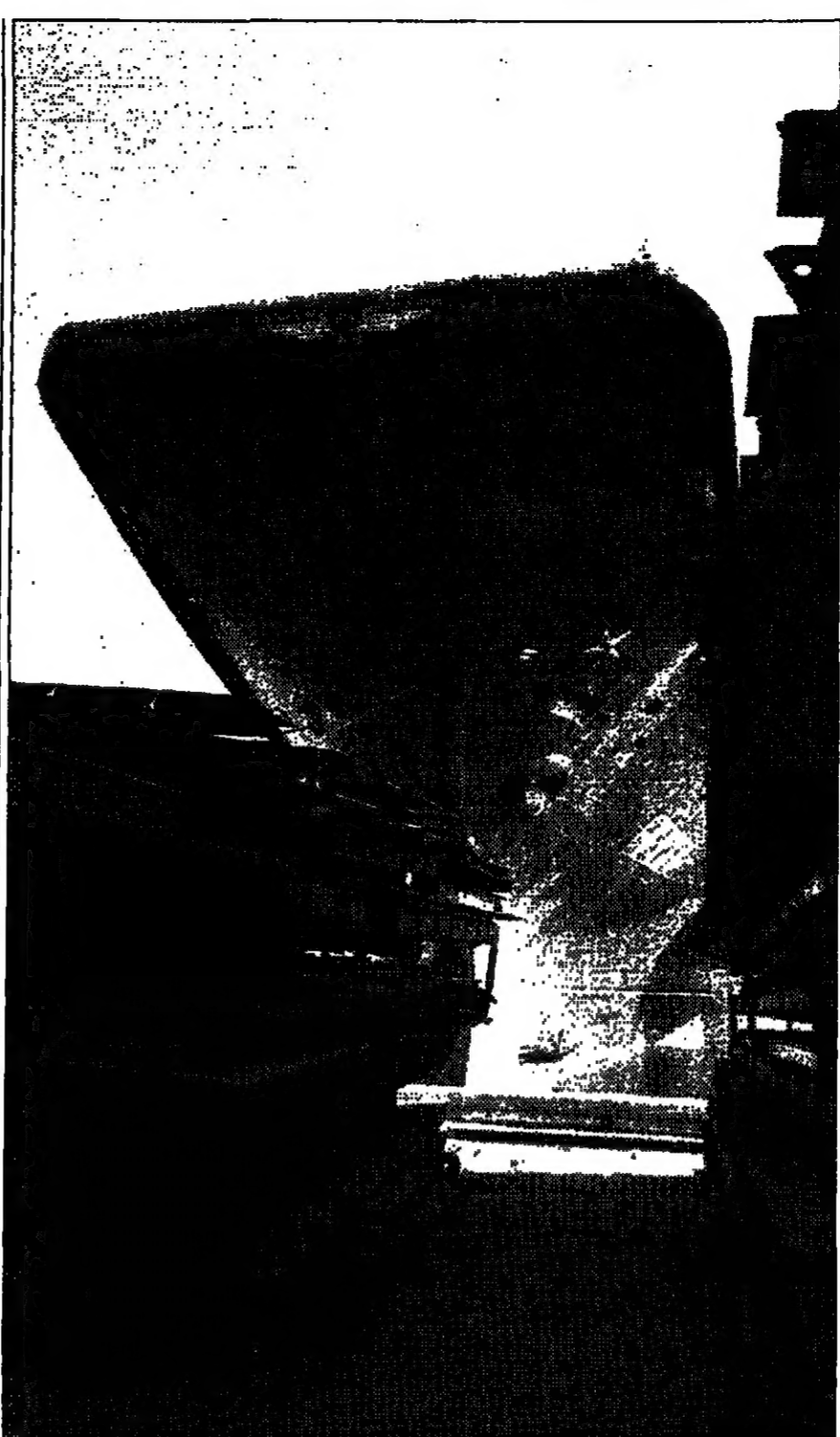
Perhaps the worst mistake the Russians made was choosing to attack instead of negotiating a withdrawal. But that would have meant President Boris Yeltsin losing face.

China to make Flanker fighter

CHINA is to pay Russia more than €1.3 billion for a licence and the equipment needed to produce the modern Su-27 fighter, the head of the Russian air force, Pyotr Deynekin, said yesterday, writes James West in Moscow.

The Su-27 – known to Nato by the codename "Flanker" – was first deployed in 1984 and is now one of the mainstays of Russian air defences. But it also has the ability to escort bombers over ranges of more than 900 miles.

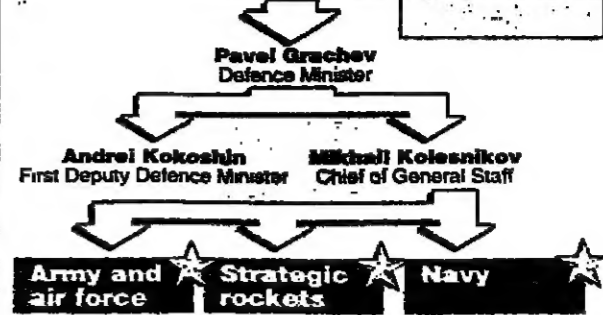
The announcement reported by the Interfax news agency comes at a time of increased tension between China and Taiwan. Beijing is already buying 50 Su-27s off the shelf from Russia, and Taiwan has responded by ordering French and American fighters.



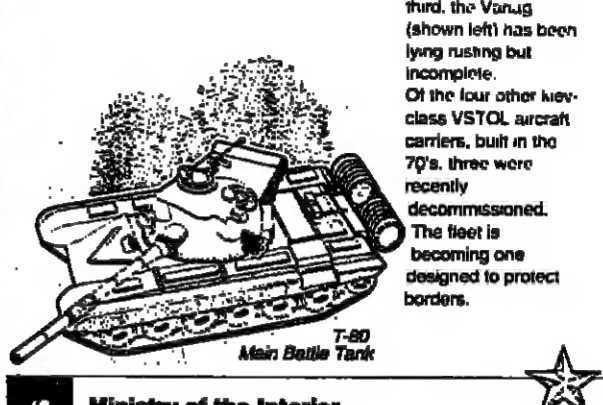
Mothballed... Russia's Varig aircraft carrier stands rusting at the Nikolayev shipyard in the Ukraine, the symbol of a former power in vertiginous decline. PHOTOGRAPH BY KREMLIN

The armed forces

Who's in charge?



Army and air force	Strategic rockets	Navy
Army personnel: supposed to be 1.7 million, probably 1.5 million because of understaffing.	No figure on how many missiles are active. Estimated 700-800. Single and multiple war headed missiles.	Soviet Union had biggest general purpose submarine force in the world with some 300 vessels. Many of its nuclear-powered submarines are not now operational and there are thought to be just 13 modern nuclear-powered submarines with ballistic missiles. There is no reliable estimate of working surface ships. Not one has been laid since 1991. Only one of three modern aircraft carriers is in service, the other was scrapped, and the third, the Varig (shown left) has been lying rusting but incomplete.
Tanks: 19,500	Strategic aircraft Tu-95 bear, heavy bomber, and the super-sonic Tu-160, the Blackjack - about 150 - half of which are still in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, Russia expecting to get them back this year. (not used for three years)	Of the four other classes VSYOL, aircraft carriers, built in the 70's, three were recently decommissioned. The fleet is becoming one designed to protect borders.
Combat infantry vehicles: 19,000	Air defence aircraft: 1,200	
Armoured personnel carriers: 16,000		
Artillery units: 21,300		
Combat aircraft: 2,150		



Other forces

Ministry of the Interior
Interior Minister: General Anatoli Kullikov. Police number about one million, of whose troops - possibly 300,000 plus.

Border Guards
Head of the Border Guards: General Andrei Nikolayev

Federal Security Service
Head of the FSB: Gen Mikhail Barsukov

Presidential Security
Ministry of Emergency Situations

Anatomy of a battlefield disaster

James Meek in Moscow examines the symbolic shambles of the Dagestani siege

OF ALL those who took part in one of the worst disasters in Russian military history, the cow can be said with the most certainty to have been innocent.

Shortly before the first Russian attack on the Dagestani village of Pervomayskaya – where Chechen separatists holding hostages had dug in – the desperate commander of a platoon of paratroopers ordered to hold a large and vitally important stretch of open country blocking the rebels' escape route begged an infantry unit to lend him an armoured car. They did.

When the assault began at 9am, the gunner tried to test its cannon on the first moving target he saw – a cow. After firing three clips he had not been the cannon. Before he could decide what to do about it, the Chechens blew the vehicle up with an anti-tank rocket.

Trying and failing to kill ruminants with borrowed guns – it was an inauspicious start to an operation where all the odds should have been in Russia's favour but where 300 well-led, motivated guerrillas showed they were not

It was clear from the beginning of the siege of Pervomayskaya that the federal troops wanted to force a resolution of the hostage drama. But in the four days before the attack, while the Chechens were digging the deep-trench system and charging (on mains electricity) the commercially-bought walkie-talkies which would so confound their enemies, the Russians were tying themselves in knots.

A host of diverse units from all over Russia – with no experience of working together – were rushed to the scene and deposited in flat, open, snow-covered fields, scoured by icy winds, without food, clothing, shelter or adequate means of communicating with each other.

There were police SOBR units (a kind of SWAT team) from as many as eight different regions. Their usual job is to arrest groups of armed criminals in big cities. There was the Alpha anti-terrorist unit, trained to rescue groups of hostages from aircraft, buses or buildings. There were paratroopers and motorised infantry conscripts, trained – if they were

trained at all – to fight Nato in a future conflict. There were artillerymen, trained to shell grid positions on maps. There were helicopter gunship crews, trained to shoot up villages in Chechnya and Afghanistan.

In charge of them all was General Mikhail Barsukov, a former KGB officer and now in charge of its successor, the federal security service – a man who had built his career organising bodyguards for VIPs.

Throughout the build up to the assault, and the subsequent operation – which ended only when the Chechen leader, Salman Raduyev, his fighters and a large number of their captives slipped through the sloppy cordon and escaped – many of the Russian troops were cold, hungry and isolated.

One interior ministry soldier said all he had eaten in four days was a loaf of bread and four tins of sprats.

Of the 50 members of the Moscow SOBR unit, four were killed in the fighting, 13 were injured and 20 were hospitalised with frostbite and pneumonia.

Only senior unit commanders had maps of Pervomayskaya, and these were not really maps at all but photocopies of what the village had been supposed to

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Racing

Win to get it right again

Ken Oliver

DURING the last six years three classically flat performers, Kris-bensis, Royal Gait and Alderbrook, have been transformed into champion hurdlers and there is a confident mood at Richard Han-non's Marlborough stable that Right Win will join this elite band.

A smart middle-distance runner on the level, Right Win made an impressive hurdl-ing debut at Sandown last month and he returns to the Essex track this afternoon to boost his big race claims in the AGFA Hurdle.

Hannon will not be braving the cold, he is summing him-self in Barbados, but the horse has been under the as-pirine care of ex-jockey Steve Knight who says: "He is in tremendous form. All being well, the next stop will be the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincan-ton on February 22 and then Cheltenham."

The smart money was down for the Champion Hurdle before Right Win made his jumping bow at Sandown and after he thrashed Strong Promise by five lengths the 33's was reduced to 10-1.

With the classy Atours in opposition, today's race is the acid test for Right Win (3.00), but there was much to like about that first perfor-mance and I expect him to confirm Knight's confidence.

The Pote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle hosts Roberty Lea, the best of Roberty Lea's long term ob-jective and Mary Reveley's eight-year-old is preferred to Tralgot, who won this race three years ago, and the fast

improving Pharnear, who has won his last three races in tremendous style.

Roberty Lea (4.10) is a tough customer who is well suited to Sandown's uphill finish, winning here last ses-sion when beating King Lucif-er by eight lengths over today's trip.

The uphill climb will also be tailor-made for Paddy's Return (1.20) in the opening Ripley Four Year Old Novice Hurdle.

After winning his first two races at Sedgefield and Ascot in November, Paddy's Return did not enjoy the best of runs when chasing home Sovereign Parade at Haydock. He is earmarked for the Triumph Hurdle and a victory would book his Cheltenham ticket.

David Nicholson could take two of the three chases on the card with Martin's Lamp and Percy Smollett.

Martin's Lamp (1.50) ran a cracking race in the Victor Chandler at Ascot last month. He appeared to have the spoils sewn up when turning the home straight a clear lead but was overtaken on the run and beaten one and a half lengths by Big Matt, who was receiving 11lb.

Percy Smollett (3.35) thrashed Unguided Missile by eight lengths at Ascot last month and can follow up by making good use of the 18lb he receives from Young Hus-ler in the AGFA Diamond Handicap.

The clash between Gold Cup winners Jodami and Master Oaks in tomorrow's Hennessy at Leopardstown will not materialise for trainer Peter Beaumont reports that Jodami is coughing.



Festival time... Noel Chance with Mr Mulligan, his favourite for next month's Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham

Tales of Oz, the Pope and Guinness testing

Chas Hawkins meets Noel Chance, the trainer who lives up to his name

THE name Noel T. Chance has a Rum-onesque ring about it and no doubt this Irishman, who loves a bet and is in his first season training in this country, would have appealed to the great American writer and horse-player.

Chance has a colourful turn of phrase himself and knows the racing game up-side down, having learned a lot about horses and gam-bling in Australia.

Aged 44, he has yet to make the big time and first impressions of his small yard in Upper Lambourn suggest he has some way to go.

But a steeplechaser called Mr Mulligan, unbeaten in four races this season and favourite for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, might do it for him.

Chance is talking while leaning against the wall of his Portakabin office, which boasts two wooden chairs, a rickety desk and a small electric heater falling conspicuously to cope with a cold, frosty morning.

This is definitely not Bal-lydoyle, but not everyone can be an M. V. O'Brien.

Chance is steeped in the game. He served his time with Sir Hugh Nugent near Dublin, but went into Irish racing "without a shilling and came out with less."

"Besides having no money I was fed up with the bloody cold winters and decided to go to Australia," he explained.

So, missing Ireland badly, I decided to come home. After a year as head-lead to Clem Wagner, I now had enough to start my-elf, only for the Pope to mess things up.

"I was training at Phoe-nix Park, but then the Pope came over and they regis-tered the gallopes for a mass religious meeting and you couldn't use them after - left them full of holes, they did, so I went to the Curragh."

Chance did not have a lot of winners - a regular dozen or so a season - but had them all well backed.

One season he had six first-time-out bumper win-ners and his reputation for shrewdness grew, hence the approach last spring from Worcester, whom he had never met in his life.

Summer jumping in Eng-land he sees as ripe for ex-ploitation, but the prize money on the Flat will be no exception, he cannot ignore.

Sandown card with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.20 Paddy's Return, 1.40 Top Open, 2.10 Ripley Four Year Old, 3.00 AGFA Hurdle, 3.35 Unguided Missile, 4.10 Roberty Lea, 4.40 Talent.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.20 Ripley Four Year Old, 1.40 Top Open, 2.10 Ripley Four Year Old, 3.00 AGFA Hurdle, 3.35 Unguided Missile, 4.10 Roberty Lea, 4.40 Talent.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.50 Gullford Plains, 2.25 Dolly Isles, 3.45 Farnham, 4.40 February Maiden, 5.00 Maiden, 5.30 Maiden, 6.00 Maiden, 6.30 Maiden, 7.00 Maiden, 7.30 Maiden, 8.00 Maiden, 8.30 Maiden, 9.00 Maiden, 9.30 Maiden, 10.00 Maiden, 10.30 Maiden, 11.00 Maiden, 11.30 Maiden, 12.00 Maiden, 12.30 Maiden.

Leopardstown tomorrow

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 3.45 Farnham, 4.40 February Maiden, 5.00 Maiden, 5.30 Maiden, 6.00 Maiden, 6.30 Maiden, 7.00 Maiden, 7.30 Maiden, 8.00 Maiden, 8.30 Maiden, 9.00 Maiden, 9.30 Maiden, 10.00 Maiden, 10.30 Maiden, 11.00 Maiden, 11.30 Maiden, 12.00 Maiden, 12.30 Maiden.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Winner. Races include Sandown Wetherby, Lingfield, Navan. Winners include Sandown Wetherby, Lingfield, Navan.

Wetherby runners and riders

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Lingfield (All-weather Flat)

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Brighter outlook at Sandown

PROSPECTS for today's meeting at Sandown im-proved yesterday but there will be a precautionary in-spection this morning.

Wetherby runners and riders

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Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off. It features the text 'Barker with L...' and 'We GET EXC...'. There is also a small image of a horse's head in the top right corner.

Soccer

African Nations' Cup final: South Africa v Tunisia

Barker sparkles with Lucas' aid

John Perلمان meets three local heroes with something to prove to the English

LUCAS RADEBE had just come home from a typical day at Elland Road... Are you going to make it, Clive Barker asked of the player he has long regarded as the key man in his defence...

often used to talk about meeting in the final... Yet the North Africans, humiliated when they hosted the previous tournament two years ago, stole quietly into the semi-finals...

In Henryk Kasperczak, who played for Poland in the 1978 World Cup, they have probably the shrewdest coach in the tournament...

They enjoyed some advantage in that nothing much was expected of them... whereas the South Africans have been under the same pressures of national and commercial expectation...

Barker is a quite brilliant motivator adept at relaxing his team... Barker's final training session by sparring a couple of rounds with South Africa's light-flyweight world champion Jaka Matlala...

By next week though Radebe, Masinga and Williams will all be back in somewhat colder surrounds... "I am looking forward to getting back and trying to win a place in the first team," says Radebe...

After withdrawing from the final at the last moment, Nigeria has been suspended from the next two African Nations' Cup competitions... The Confederation of African Football also fined the Nigerian FA £10,000 and required it to compensate the CAF for damage to the tournament.



Semi-ecstatic... Barker congratulates Radebe. ADL BRADLOW



On the rise... Masinga challenges the Egyptian goalkeeper. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY M PROIR

Birmingham escape over crowd trouble

Martin Thorpe and Don Best

BIRMINGHAM CITY have escaped serious punishment for the crowd trouble at last November's home game with Millwall.

A Football Association disciplinary hearing at St Andrews yesterday ordered City to play one game behind closed doors, suspended until the end of this year...

The Sheffield United striker Jostein Flo has signed for the Norwegian club Strømsgodset and the Manchester City defender Alan Kerrigan has joined Bradford on a month's loan...

The FA said they had taken into account a plea in mitigation and the advances made by the club in recent years in reaching their decision... Derby yesterday agreed in principle to leave the Baseball Ground, their home for 101 years, to move to a new all-seater ground.

they have been completely exonerated, which is what I wanted to see rather than savage sentences.

Birmingham are currently waiting to hear if they face punishment over a stormy Anglo-Italian Cup tie in Ancona, while Charlton have written to West Midlands Police, with a copy to the FA, complaining about an incident after the club's recent game at St Andrews in which visiting fans were attacked and £2,000 worth of damage caused to three supporters' coaches.

Adrian Heath, Sheffield United's assistant manager, has been charged by the FA following alleged remarks made during last Sunday's FA Cup defeat by Aston Villa.

The Sheffield United striker Jostein Flo has signed for the Norwegian club Strømsgodset and the Manchester City defender Alan Kerrigan has joined Bradford on a month's loan...

Wimbledon's manager Joe Kinner said yesterday after turning down the chance to manage the Republic of Ireland: "It was the hardest decision of my life. It breaks my heart to say it was the right job at the wrong time."

Derby yesterday agreed in principle to leave the Baseball Ground, their home for 101 years, to move to a new all-seater ground.

Liverpool sweep the board

LIVERPOOL'S Robbie Fowler and Stan Collyers have been named as the Players of the Month for January, the first time the award has been shared since Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton were nominated in November 1994.

The Liverpool manager Roy Evans also picked up his second straight Manager of the Month award while Lenzie Lawrence, after only six weeks in the Luton Town job, took the First Division prize.

when they face Wimbledon at Selhurst Park today. The England defender has played only one game in the last 12 after trapping a nerve in his back.

Andy Sinton is hoping to make his Tottenham debut when the club visit in-form Liverpool today. The former England winger, signed for £1.5 million from Sheffield Wednesday two weeks ago, was Cup-tied last week.

West Ham's Dani, the on-loan 19-year-old from Sporting Lisbon, is expected to be on the bench for today's visit of Nottingham Forest.

FARTHER AFIELD: Nine contenders if a manager from outside England is acceptable

Foreign fantasy for the FA

David Lacey believes that, when it comes to coaching, the world owes us something

AS THE Football Association's committee of head-hunters began to draw up a shortlist of likely candidates for the England job, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, admitted that the man who will succeed Terry Venables after the European Championship did not have to be English. Presumably Kelly was speaking hypothetically. There is about as much chance of the England team being run by a non-Englishman as there is the Greek squad being handed over to a Turk.

and Roy Hodgson revived Irish and Swiss fortunes. George Raynor took Sweden to the 1988 World Cup final. And Mike Smith found in Egypt something of the initial success he enjoyed with Wales.

Certainly foreign, or at least non-English, coaches might do equally well here. Some suggest themselves more seriously than others but George Graham is a genuine paradox because, while he would not be worn by the FA at any price following the Arsenal bung scandal, his footballing credentials are stronger than most.

A British, as opposed to a foreign, coach would be less likely to arouse the xenophobic tendencies of the tabloid press. But whoever takes over after Venables should be made fully aware of the sort of headlines which would greet failure.

George Graham

Country: Scotland. IN MANY ways the best-qualified of all the non-English types to succeed Terry Venables, not least because his devotion to Venables' methods would ensure the continuity the FA is seeking. Graham is also well up in foreign football and, as he showed with Arsenal, can organise teams to beat classy opposition. Main advantage: Would not have to buy players. Main drawback: Would have to travel with the FA. The Sun: BUNG-NO-HOI!



Johan Cruyff

Country: Holland. ANOTHER admirer of things English, Cruyff's name has been linked with the odd league club from time to time, most notably when Robert Maxwell was touting him for Derby County. If the FA's coaching revolution manages to produce a technically superior crop of young internationals, why not go Dutch? Main advantage: It has to be his Dutch breeding. Main drawback: Salary would bankrupt the FA. The Sun: JESUS H CRUYFF!



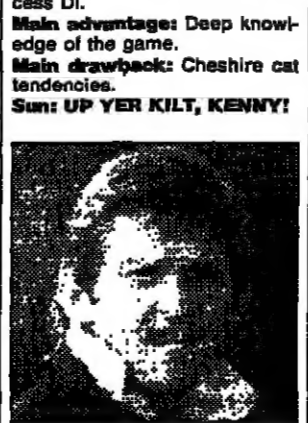
Gerard Houllier

Country: France. HOULLIER'S name has already been mentioned in connection with the post of technical director, which has been his principal raison d'être in France. He would combine foreign subtleties with English pragmatism but would need better material to work with than that at present available to Venables. Main advantage: At least he is an Anglophile. Main drawback: He's a French Anglophile. The Sun: FROG OFF!



Kenny Dalglish

Country: Scotland. ONE of the best footballers ever produced in Britain and highly respected as a coach, it would be interesting to see Dalglish in charge of the national squad. He might surprise quite a lot of people, even if his sense of media relations did contrive to make Ali Ramsey look like Prince Di. Main advantage: Deep knowledge of the game. Main drawback: Cheshire cat tendencies. The Sun: UP YER KILT, KENNY!



Radomir Antic

Country: Serbia. THIS amiable former Luton midfielder became a coach with Partizan Belgrade before moving to Spain, where he is now leading Atletico Madrid towards their first championship since 1977. His strengths are management and, so far, an instinct he has shown for survival under Jesus Gil, Atletico's wacky president. Main advantage: He possesses an equable disposition. Main drawback: Does not have a reputation as a tactician. The Sun: RADDY AWFUL!



Franz Beckenbauer

Country: Germany. BECKENBAUER has had a strong affinity with England since the 1966 World Cup and was always an admirer of the Bobby Moore and Charlton. He might have less patience with English playing standards as they are at present but at least the squad might come properly to terms with the sweeper system. Main advantage: Has a top-class pedigree. Main drawback: Has no time for mongrels. The Sun: HANG THE KAISER!

TEAM SHEET

Arsenal v Coventry

The Gunners have Adams out injured while Klose and Medhurst are suspended. Bani is back but the Sky Blues will be without the injured Williams.

Aston Villa v Leeds

Villa's Wright could miss out, as Stramton stands by Pemberton could return for Leeds and there may be a place for Gray.

Blackburn v Bolton

Hartford is likely to stick with the side but suspended Westwood and De Freitas are expected to return for Bolton.

Liverpool v Tottenham

Rodgers returns to the squad but Roddick is suspended, so Wright or Harkness will play. Sutton may make his debut.

Manchester City v QPR

City make checks on Quinn and Carlo while QPR's Burrows is injured, so Liza stands by. Gallon may play and Wilkins has added his own name to the squad.

Newcastle v Sheffield Wed

Ferdinand, Howe, and Lee all return but Dennis and Paschoa are suspended. Wednesday's Premiership is back but Breck is ruled out. Waite is called up.

Southampton v Everton

Charlton faces a late test on an ankle while Watson looks set to play. Everton's Jackson may return for Underwood but Ebbrell starts a two-match ban so the reserve defender Allen waves.

West Ham v Nottm Forest

Dani is likely to start on the bench. Brecker is still injured but Lazaridis is fit. Forest's Peltier and Sinton are expected to keep their places.

Wimbledon v Man United

Hartford, Earle and Ekoku are all suspended for Wimbledon, who welcome Gary Jones after a four-match ban. Pattison is poised to return for United.

TOMORROW

Chelsea v Middlesbrough. Duberry joins Wise and Hughes on Chriswee's suspended list. Johnson and Sinclair are fit. However, Soto's Joaquin Potock and Wylie are injured.

Advertisement for BBC Radio 5 Live. Text: 'We win on goal difference'. 'GET EXCLUSIVE LIVE COVERAGE ON 5 OF EVERY PREMIERSHIP MATCH.' '909 & 693 MW'.

Soccer

Cereal killer is stalking Keegan

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

THE crunch has finally come for Kevin Keegan. And it has nothing to do with the on-off signing of Asprilla...

moral values because he has now ditched her. Er, wait a minute. If Campbell is a virtuous...

THERE was huge excitement at the Soccer Desk this week. We received our first E-Mail letter...

THAT'S Southampton United's season down the drain then. Yesterday's selection of their boss Dave Moore...

Strangely the last time Moore won this award was exactly a year ago following three wins out of four...

POOR old Kevin Campbell. Just as he gets his game together at Nottingham Forest his private life falls apart...

IS IT true, asks Paul Marsden of Salford, that when Manchester City were thrown out of their Hampshire hotel prior to Wednesday's game at Southampton...

Red alert for Cantona return

ERIC CANTONA returns to Selhurst Park for the first time since the Frenchman launched his protest at first at an abusive Crystal Palace fan in January of last year...

do not play until tomorrow and there are fears that some fans might attempt to infiltrate the crowd at today's game.

Scottish preview

Burns thankful for revival of Celtic's main McStay

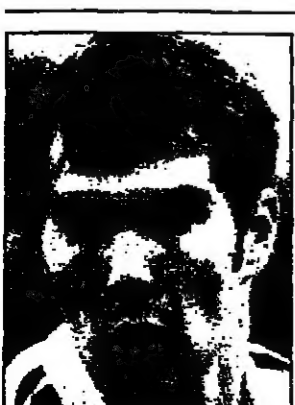
Patrick Glenn

PAUL McSTAY'S re-emergence this season as the most influential player at Parkhead brought some breathless tributes from his manager Tommy Burns on the eve of another fraught day in the Premier Division.

"His confidence is so high that he knows before he goes out that he's going to be the best player on the field. McStay's frustration before did not just include the lack of trophies, but also perhaps striving without results in moderate teams. Now he's getting responses from players around him."

"Since that day there has been a remarkable development in his form and in his influence on and off the field," said Burns. "He is much more talkative and more assertive, much more intense about the game."

McStay is one of the few in the current squad who know what it takes to win a championship. His first title success came in 1982, at the age of 17; his last in the double-winning year of 1988. At 31 he has evidently recovered his appetite.



INJURY curtailed this tough little midfielder's journey to a land which had promised him glory, then a few more years of biting tackles and a few more miles covered between penalty areas. He spent the bulk of his career alongside a well-known man-made waterway in the city of his birth. Before that he had nested amid some spiky Midlands shrubs.

Last week: David Burnside (West Bromwich Albion), Southampton, Crystal Palace, Wolves, Plymouth Argyle, Bristol City, Colchester United.



Back with a smile... Gunnell recalled days when I was doing five-minute runs and then crying my eyes out

Athletics

Rage and the return of Gunnell

Stephen Bierley follows the hard road from injury to the start line today

MANY people tried to tell Sally Gunnell that the injury which struck her down in the first month of last year was a blessing in disguise. She found it in only pain and a frustration she could scarcely contain.

There were times when my husband Jon needed a tin hat, she said yesterday, able to laugh about it at last. But she said it was perhaps the motivation I needed for this summer's Games.

Those nerves were already starting to jangle yesterday when she entered the Holiday Inn under the glare of television lights. Golden Sal was back and British athletics welcomed her with delight and relief.

This is a different sort of nerves, though - more apprehension, really. "I'm not expecting too much of myself. These indoor races are about getting round in one piece. It's all about getting the competitive feel back."

It was after a training session in Freetown in January last year that Gunnell developed a sore heel. She was absolutely bursting with fitness and looking forward immensely to defending her world 400m hurdles title in Gothenburg. The problem did not appear too worrying.

horrible running them. I was kidding myself. On the day in August that the American Kim Batten took both her world title and her world record Gunnell decided to commit herself to the surgeon's knife.

The problem was a spur of bone in her right heel which was digging into the Achilles tendon but it was not until the Swiss surgeon opened her up that the problem became starkly obvious. Fearful of the pain X-ray had stubbornly failed to reveal anything untoward.

Gunnell had assumed that after the operation her troubles would be over. Far from it the pain was intense. "In those early days I was doing just five-minute runs and then crying my eyes out. I had thought the problem would be taken away almost immediately but instead the pain was twenty times worse."

She had been at the end of her tether just before the operation and now the stress and tension piled up again. She swam and swam, with her husband cajoling her every day but it gradually the pain began to ease.

It has not gone away entirely. "They told me the problem would take about a year and a half to clear up. The pain is getting better and better every day but it still hurts for a couple of hours after I've trained."

Because of this Gunnell was still a little anxious yesterday but the late news that Lintford Christie had decided to run in Birmingham will have diverted some of her thoughts.

Her presence on the track amid last season's internal wrangling might have helped switch the focus back from politics to pure athletics. A huge number of fans will be watching her to emerge from this winter fit to defend her Olympic title in Atlanta.

Gunnell has just returned from nearly four weeks' training in South Africa where her times have been steadily improving. "The old feeling of just floating over the ground is coming back. Today she runs on the flat as if she had a couple of pre-Gothenburg races in Germany but knew in her heart that it was no use. "It was

Rugby League

Lowes bails out to Bulls

Paul Fitzpatrick

IN leaving Leeds for Bradford Bulls, James Lowes has sacrificed his chance of appearing in his third successive Silk Cup Challenge Cup final. But he looked less than heartbroken at Odsal yesterday when his transfer was confirmed.

The former Hunslet scrum-half, who has joined the Bulls on a three-year contract, was at hooker in the losing Leeds sides against Wigan in the finals of 1994 and 1995 and would have had a fair chance of going to Wembley again.

Now he is cup-tied and unable to help his new club in their campaign which begins, weather permitting, against Batley at Odsal tomorrow.

But missing out on Wembley was, in his eagerness to join the Bulls, a price Lowes was prepared to pay. Hugh McKeenan, the Leeds manager, and the club coach Dean Bell used all their powers of persuasion this week in an attempt to keep Lowes, but in vain. Bell said: "James figured heavily in our plans. His decision not to sign a new contract had 'come as a shock' at Headingley."

Brian Smith, Bradford's head coach, said that in his view Lowes was the "No. 1 player as far as defensive work-rate goes in this country. But it is not only that I love players with skill and vision and I believe he has the ability to bring out the best in others."

With the departure to Australia of Lee Jackson, Smith feels that a hole has appeared in the England and Great Britain side at hooker and Lowes could fill it. But there is competition for the place.

Mick Shaw, one of the game's rising young hookers, could, with Lowes out of the way, make the position his own at Headingley. He does not yet have Lowes's all-round qualities but has the advantage of pace over him - and blistering pace at that.

Shaw is No. 9 in a Leeds side which has benefited from the delayed cup programme. Graham Holroyd and Francis Cummins have recovered from injury and play against Swinton at Gigg Lane. Harvey Howard is on the bench after completing a two-match suspension.

Tennis

Olympian Seles beaten

John Duncan

MONICA SELES set her sights on an Olympic Games debut yesterday despite suffering her second defeat since her comeback, beaten 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 by Croatia's Iva Majoli in the Open quarter-finals.

The joint world No. 1, who trounced the 18-year-old on the way to the Australian Open title last week, went into the Tokyo tournament with a sore left shoulder but refused to blame her injury.

Her comeback was helped by the cocaine positives reported in samples taken at the French Open. The players are seeking to prevent the International Tennis Federation from hearing their appeal until they have received details of the "presence" of the samples.

"There is no independent testing of the material," said their solicitor Jack Rabinovitch. "There is no protocol or procedure being provided to enable the players properly to check the analysis."

"We haven't received a large amount of material which we would need. We have asked repeatedly for it but we have not received it. The ITF has run this in a very strange way."

It emerged that the players, who were tested in June, were told of the positive results only in October, an unusually long delay. Several aspects of the case remained unclear after yesterday's half-hour court hearing, in which the ITF was represented by the formidable Robert B. Coe of the former Diane Modahl appeal - in which the quality of laboratory testing was also a central issue. A full hearing is likely to be conducted in mid-March.

Weekend fixtures

Table listing weekend fixtures for various leagues including FA Cup, Football League, and Scottish Premier.

ENGLISH LEAGUE

Table listing fixtures for the English League, including First Division and Second Division.

BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIER

Table listing fixtures for the Scottish Premier League.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table listing fixtures for the Scottish League, including First Division and Second Division.

Rugby Union

Table listing fixtures for various rugby union competitions.

Hockey

Table listing fixtures for various hockey leagues.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'Duels' and 'The World's Best' text.

RUGBY UNION: THE FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

England v Wales at Twickenham

Duels in line for divided England

Robert Armstrong

THE painful rift between Will Carling and the England manager Jack Rowell was exacerbated yesterday as reports trickled out of the England camp at Richmond suggesting that the captain wanted to distance himself from team selection and the tactics for today's Five Nations match against Wales.

Rowell took no active part in the England squad's training session at Roehampton, which lasted less than an hour. Neither did the coaches Les Cusworth and Mike Glenn but it would be premature to draw hard and fast conclusions from Rowell's lack of public communication with Carling, if only because the England captain often takes charge of the final Friday session along with the pack leader Ben Clarke.

It is thought that Carling wishes to deflect further adverse criticism away from himself during the championship because he feels he exercises limited influence on the overall strategy. Speculation on the limits of Carling's authority hardly fosters the mood of optimism England need for a clash with Wales.

Significantly both Carling and Rowell gave a surly response this week to a positive invitation from the new Wales coach Kevin Bowring to let their hair down and

agree with the former England flanker Mickey Sktner, who remarked pointedly that Rowell, not Carling, should be taking much of the blame for England's shortcomings.

Rowell referred the other day to "a refreshing, looking Welsh team" one had the uneasy suspicion that the England manager was already planning to stifle Welsh enterprise with the short-range firepower of his forwards instead of seeking to scatter Wales with pace and infatigation.

Clearly Bowring is determined to break with the discredited conservatism of British rugby and develop a national playing style that has a fighting chance of success in the next World Cup.



Rowell... self-exonerated

The Welsh locks, Jones and Llewellyn, should be able to win their own line-out ball and perhaps even pinch one or two of England's deliveries, should Regan fail to improve on his throw-in.

Twickenham teams

Table listing players for England and Wales, including names like J. Sleightholme, W. Carling, and J. Thomas.

Bowring's vision takes Wales back to the future

As the Welsh prepare for Twickenham, Frank Keating meets the new boss and finds him emulating an old boss

THE WASTEPAPER bin of any middle-aged sporting back in recent years has been full of scrunched-up resumes devoted to a succession of brightly lit, minor comings and direly grim goings of Wales's national coaches.

London (the old Borough Road College), where he took in over 350 games for London Welsh — perennially, it seemed, as captain — and one who judge seriously called him "the world's best unopposed flanker".

More lately, as the popular and progressive director of PE at Bristol's select Clifton College, he had successful charge of Wales's Under-20, Under-18 and A-team cadres.

triumph. They showed the fuzzy monochrome film of that Test series, most of it shot, it seemed, through New Zealand's steaming wintry mists.



Still down... Wales train under Bowring, right, and Terry Cobner, the WRU's director of rugby

The Welsh defence in the white heat of Twickenham. Leeky.

Ladbrokes advertisement for betting on the England vs Wales match, including odds and contact information.

who have seen Twickenham only on television. He has managed what the late Carwyn James pinned for you never achieved: total control of selection and strategy.

Northampton pulled back in triumph I can still remember the merciful feeling of my feet touching the ground again, although my spirit was still walking on air for hours afterwards.

Northampton join chase to tempt Johnson away from Leicester

LEICESTER are battling to hold on to their England lock Martin Johnson, the target of three Courage League clubs, Newcastle and Harlequins have already declared their interest and now Northampton have joined the scrum.

Johnson's former Leicester and England colleague Tony Underwood makes his first appearance for Newcastle Gosforth tomorrow in the derby against West Hartlepool.

The winger Derek Stark and No. 8 Brian Renwick scored the others and the outside-half Scott Welsh contributed 18 points before being injured late in a game that yielded nine tries.

Scotland v France at Murrayfield

French pack the strength to defy the omens

TWO words not to mention together to the Scotland management this week have Grand Slam. Six years have passed since the Scots achieved such a conjunction but their Five Nations omens are good.

power and superior line-out play should give their dangerous three-quarters plenty of possession. On the evidence of their creaky display against Ireland, Scotland's wee men in the front row may struggle against the French scrum and, to tackle this problem, the Scots took to "the sledge" while training in the snow last Sunday.

Scotland have retained the side which won in Dublin with Bryan Redpath and Gregor Townsend continuing the half-back partnership that was so productive against the Irish.

Murrayfield teams

Table listing players for Scotland and France, including names like R. Shepherd, C. Jones, and J. L. Sedouyrou.

France's fly-half Thierry Lacroix needs only four points to beat Didier Casanovi's all-time French points-scoring record of 354, and he may well get the chance to kick those two conversions he needs today.

SportsGuardian

THE BUILD-UP TO TWICKENHAM TAKES ITS TOLL



Lights, camera, action... Rowell looks outwardly calm while doing his best to ignore media pressure during England training in Roehampton yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

England at daggers drawn

Richard Williams on the fall-out from a fraught week which has left Jack Rowell and Will Carling at odds with each other

HE PROWLED, he fidgeted, he barely held on to his temper. When he smiled, which was seldom, it looked like a grimace. It had been a week in which the pressure intensified on the England rugby squad, and yesterday their manager showed no sign of enjoying the experience.

On Wednesday, an angry Jack Rowell had ordered the cameras of BBC Wales to be removed from the touchline during an open training session. "That's the difference between losing games and winning games," he barked at his media watchdogs.

By yesterday morning the mood had darkened further. As his forwards worked on the skills of line-out and scrummage which had derailed them in Paris a fortnight ago, the apparent rift between Rowell and his own captain provided the topic of conversation among observers of England's final practice session at the Bank of England ground in Roehampton.

Did he agree that some of his team-mates were at risk? "I don't know because I'm not really involved in selection, so I don't really know what the state of play is there. But if we don't win on Saturday there is bound to be a lot of pressure."

A minute or two later the subject was raised by another reporter who observed that it had been generally assumed, since Carling's early days as captain, that he had been a

nevertheless suggested, beneath the usual macho understatement, something other than a total commitment to the idea of the squad's belief in Rowell.

The success and popularity of Carling's team gave English rugby the impetus to enter the age of professionalism. Inheriting a well-grooved side from Cooke, Rowell first presided over a record series of 10 victories before a traumatic defeat in the World Cup semi-final last summer inaugurated the current and less enviable sequence of four defeats in five matches. In some minds, impatient to rebuild the team, a further reverse today against an untried Wales side would call the entire regime into question.

Rowell's long-standing promise to persuade England towards a more enlightened style looked forlorn in the defeat by France two weeks ago. England fell back on the percentage game, with Rowell blaming poor on-field decisions by the senior players, among whom he identified the captain.

Carling's reaction to these suggestions was at first evasive. "I didn't hear him say it, so I'm not going to comment on it," he said, before adding: "Sure, there were some wrong decisions made. But there were far more right ones. People will always make mistakes and I'm not one for dwelling on them, as long as we learn from them. I'm not pointing a finger at anyone."

"This is a very complex time for the England players," Rowell said, suggesting that some of the senior players are performing badly because they miss their old colleagues — "the chaps you're very friendly with, who you

"I'm not really involved in selection but if we don't win on Saturday there is bound to be pressure"

Rugby Football Union's press officer, succeeded in providing a convincing rebuttal of Carling's words. As Rowell left the field with the players to return to their hotel yesterday he was reduced to buttonholing the agency reporter who had elicited the original quote from Carling, brusquely ordering him to "put it right".

According to Rowell's aide, Carling had never been a selector, even in the Geoff Cooke era. Rowell explained that under his own system the captain is consulted both before and after the selection is made. But no amount of spin-doctoring could contradict the memories (and the tape recorders) of those who

had witnessed Carling's reaction on Thursday to questions about England's selection policy, beginning with one about whether he was aware that, as Rowell had said the previous day, certain players were in danger of being dropped.

"No, I wasn't aware of it," Carling said. "He hasn't asked me to speak to players and he hasn't spoken to me in those terms."

Bosman effect knocks on

PHILIPPE SELLA will be able to play for Saracens the moment he signs for the club, whatever the International Board says. The European Union yesterday ruled that residency qualifications are illegal and constitute a restraint of trade.

The IB ruled at their annual meeting this week that players wishing to move from one country to another sit out 180 days before being allowed to turn out for their new clubs. The EU begs to differ.

An aide to the employment commissioner Pdraig Flynn said yesterday in Brussels that residency qualifications would breach EU rules on employment as determined in the recent Jean-Marc Bosman case.

"The commissioner made it quite clear the decisions apply to all sports," the aide said. "It would also include rugby."

The Rugby Football Union had planned to bring its residency qualification down from 120 days to a week, but even this may prove illegal.

Christie homes in on Birmingham

STEPHEN BIERLEY It had been thought the Olympic champion would run his first indoor race of the season in Stuttgart tomorrow, but a change in schedule means that the crowd in the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham are in for a double treat, with Sally Gunnell making her first appearance in Britain since 1994.

Christie returned to Britain from Australia on Tuesday after winning two 100 metres races in Adelaide and Perth, both hand-timed at 10.00sec. His main opponent will probably be Mike Rosswess who has previously beaten him in Birmingham.

The race gives Christie a chance to see how his training in Australia has been progressing and also warn him up for next weekend's more important clash in the same stadium against Bruny Surin of Canada, the world silver medal winner and indoor champion.

Earlier this week, in London, Donovan Bailey, Canada's gold medal winner in

Gothenburg, claimed that Christie, who finished sixth at the world championships last summer, had not been injured before that race.

I went to the local state comprehensive. Apart from a bit of bullying, some racial abuse and few bouts of lovesickness, I had little cause to shed boyish tears. The only clue that I was a year younger than my peers was that my report cards used to say I was immature, although this turned out to be a permanent character trait rather than anything to do with my age.
Gary Younge

Keegan and a Batty bit of thinking



David Lacey

KEVIN KEEGAN presumably knows what he is doing. He has not admitted the player he wants has a recent history of injuries, but he can still be a formidable opponent. And while some may occasionally feel he should be locked up, he has done nothing that would warrant a call from the Tyneside constabulary yet.

Nevertheless, the question still needs to be put: why on earth should Newcastle United want to sign David Batty, surely the negation of all Keegan has achieved at St James' Park so far?

However, this is no time to attack Batty, one Guardian reader (Graeme Le Saux) having already done as much this season. Maybe Keegan was thinking of applying the principle of better the devil you know.

Certainly any manager willing to pay \$2.7 million plus \$26,000 a week for a gun-toting Colombian with a five-year-old knee injury must believe he has God on his side.

Fastidio Asprilla would appear to be well-equipped for a Saturday night out in Big Market. He might or might not be the answer to Newcastle's final push for the title. The issue is whether a projected signing of this sort marks the point at which football management becomes merely a series of expensive foreign shopping expeditions.

At least Batty is English. Amid the post-Bosman confusion the fact that ending of limitations on foreigners applied only to EU nationals appears to have been forgotten.

Nearly 10 per cent of those playing in the Premier and English leagues are foreign and the figure is rising. Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, wants the tide stemmed but shares Camute's realisation that this is easier said than done.

Blanket condemnations of the wage demands of some very ordinary footballers are something again. So the attraction of better-equipped imports is understandable. But ultimately they will do no more for English football than they did for the British motor industry.

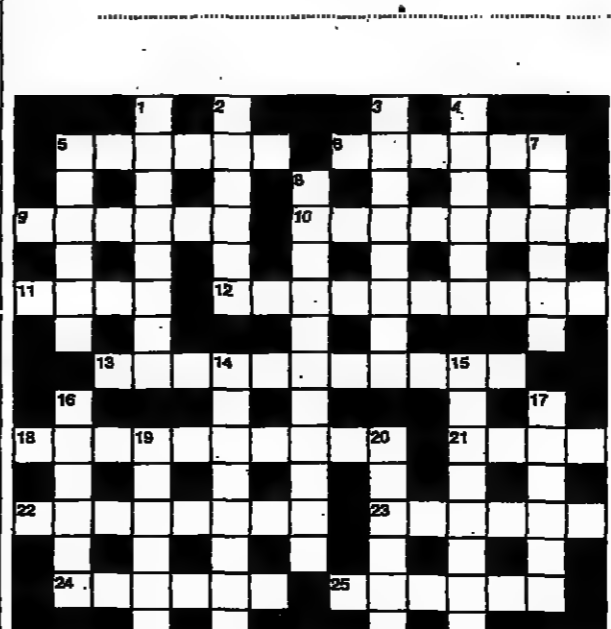
Forty-five years ago Sweden's centre-forward, Hans Jeppson, spent three months in London on a business course and during his short stay helped Charlton avoid relegation. Fresh restrictions on overseas players followed but now, with a growing tendency to sign foreigners on short-term contracts, the game has come full circle.

For Hackney Marshes, then, read Pripet Marshes. Not many Rodney Marshes to be found there, either.

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,566

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,566, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JB, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday February 12.

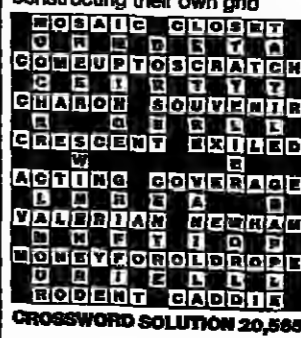
Name: _____
Address: _____



- 4 Self-styled scholar made it sound person-on-the-spot (9)
- 5 Ex-Cathedral adage as a reciprocal diversion? (6)
- 7 Liberal arts having a resurgence: it's immaterial (5)
- 8 Takes the calumet with Amerindian number in disguise (11)
- 14 When the Queen visits the City, one's hat could be raised... (8)
- 15 ... and, still from the City, carried away (8)
- 16 Thus Greek type attracts a Western woman (6)
- 17 Sino-fructiferous content of Caspian cheese (7)
- 19 The call of The Unspeakeable: it almost makes you sick (6)
- 20 Gunners capturing East on the ground (6)

- Set by Bunthorne**
- Across**
- 5 I say! Which doctor has failed degree? Nemat (5)
 - 6 Where, initially, Lemuel's alternative projections upset the Academy (6)
 - 9,10 From whom "Th' Egoist" emerged. Right? No way! (6,8)
 - 11 This sailor going into the woods? On the contrary (4)
 - 12 A painter leaves Turkey's capital in case blame attaches to last production (5,5)
 - 13 Go-between scientist re-constructs (11)
- Down**
- 1 Rough Australian poet taking scripture to heart (8)
 - 2 "The Father of Male Offspring" (Richardson) (8)
 - 3 The composer of "Homblower", for one (8)

We are sorry that the wrong grid appeared with the crossword in yesterday's Guardian. Congratulations to those readers who succeeded in constructing their own grid



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,566

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15	OTHER LIVES Contract economy: Britain's new style of employment	17	INTERVIEW Lord-Fix-it: Megan Tresidder meets John Wakeham	21	MONEY Home-buyers get a raw deal from building societies	24	FINANCE Going for a song: the privateers take over the railways
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13
Saturday February 3
1996

The Guardian Outlook

In at the death of old man Dole

Just weeks ago the White House beckoned, but it's all gone wrong again for the Republican nearly-man. JONATHAN FREEDLAND watches his campaign crash

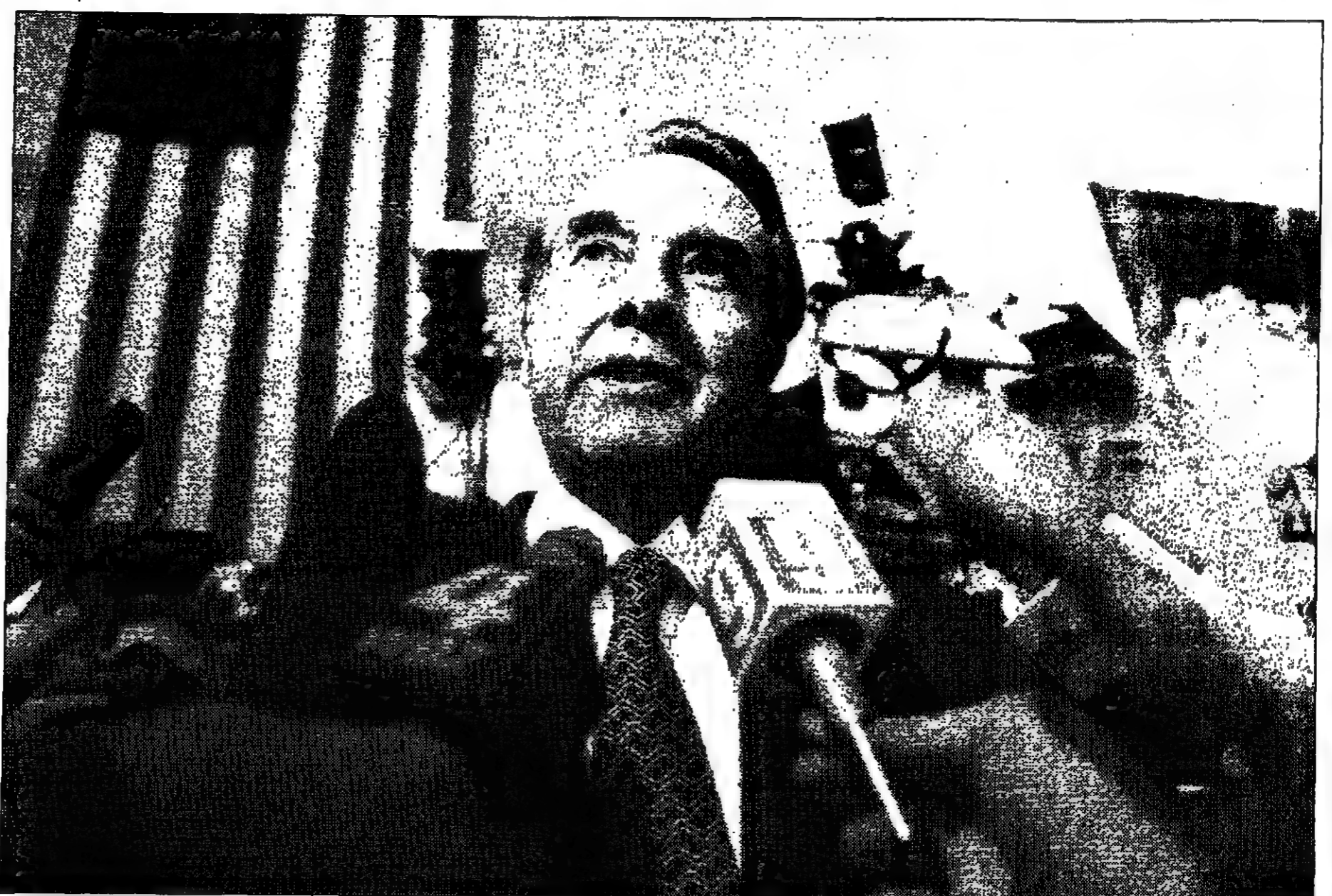


Photo: JOE MARQUETTE

SILENCE is golden, unless you're running for president. If you're running for president, silence is chilly, grey and unwelcome. It's the sound you never want to hear, for it is not silence at all. It is a distress signal.

Bob Dole heard it this week at the Top of the Trowle factory in Londonderry, New Hampshire (there's a Derry just down the road). The Senate majority leader — who until a few days ago had the words "Republican presidential frontrunner" glued to his name — was engaged in what they call "retail politics", the hand-to-hand combat of meeting real voters in small venues. He was doing the campaign stop at a small, new-ish business, shaking hands, posing for cameras, rattling off a short speech.

But there was no noise. He appeared suddenly, mobbed by cameras, boom microphones forming a forest above his head, a fixed smile on his face. He waved in the direction of no one in particular, inspecting a line of processed apples. He nodded and mumbled inconsequentially, as candidates will. He walked along, the governor of New Hampshire on one side, the factory owner on the other. A crowd was there, as hand-picked as the apples. But it remained utterly noiseless, like an audience watching mime. Perhaps they understood that, as extras in a photo-op, they didn't need to make a sound. One silver-haired man, wearing a big Dole sticker, tried to break the silence with a "Hello, Bob!" and a short, weak cheer went up. But the

room soon filled once again with deathly quiet.

Such a response is extremely bad news for Bob Dole. It is a sign, as if one were peeped, of the deep trouble he's in. Winning candidates make rooms buzz and people jump. Men on their way to the White House inspire a rock star clamour. This was a response for Val Doonican.

But the episode, like the rest of Mr Dole's day in New Hampshire, was revealing not just of the ailing fortunes of the man who until recently believed destiny was about to grasp his hand. It was also an oddly typical moment in what is a singularly strange, comic, shallow, paradoxical and intoxicating process: the election of an American president.

A month ago, the 1996 campaign was already written off as a giant snooze. Bob Dole was a shoo-in, a frontrunner who'd already lapped his opponents. He had the money, the organisation, and, above all, the timing: after two previous attempts, in 1980 and 1988, this year would, at last, be Bob Dole's turn. But US politics, not for the first time, has departed from the script. Bob Dole is no longer the frontrunner: a poll on Thursday in New Hampshire showed him fully nine points behind zillionaire publisher, Malcolm "Steve" Forbes, the tycoon-nerd with Mr Magoo glasses who's come from nowhere to dominate the campaign.

Dole cannot afford to lose New Hampshire, the state whose first-in-the-nation status has made it a king-maker. No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning New Hampshire first, and Dole was supposed to

win it big. Two months ago, polls showed the senator ahead of his rivals by margins of up to 30 per cent.

The ship has gone now, stripped first by Dole's performance giving the Republican response to President Clinton's State of the Union address last week. Dole looked like a mortician, an animated cadaver, his lighting that dwelt cruelly on every line of his 72-year-old face. He stumbled with the autocrat, and looked lonely addressing the nation not in a packed, applauding chamber — as Clinton had — but in a sterile office. Where Clinton had been John F Kennedy, Dole was Bela Lugosi.

The rot set in that night, as Republicans drew the conclusion that could disqualify Dole from the nomination — he can't beat Clinton. Days later Newsweek captured the mood, with a brooding cover under the single line: "Doubts About Dole."

The onslaught has been compounded by saturation TV advertising aimed directly at him by Steve Forbes. When the publishing heir isn't hawking his miracle cure flat-tax — 17 per cent rate for everyone — he's been carpet-bombing Dole in what political consultants call the "air war". (Old-fashioned campaigning is the "ground war".)

"Let's face it," the former frontrunner said a few hours after the pie factory, at a dinner for bank managers and computer executives at the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce: "The media is powerful. You buy enough of it, you're going to get your message through." Because he's dipping into his own personal fortune (estimated at roughly



half a billion dollars), Forbes is not bound by the usual campaign spending rules. That means he can buy enough TV time in pivotal states like New Hampshire and Iowa to make his face the brand leader, the Coca-Cola of candidates. Dole friends fear Forbes could do to him what Gary Hart did to Walter Mondale in 1984: damage him so badly in the primaries, that even if he wins the nomination, he's too bruised to take on the president.

But these are just the immediate explanations for that unbidden moment of silence in Londonderry. In fact, the

candidate, Lemar Alexander, wears a red plaid shirt to telegraph his distance from the "professional politicians up there in Washington". This popular insurgency was first revealed by the outsider candidacy of the billionaire Texan Ross Perot in 1992, and it has only grown since.

Everyone from the radical armed militias to President Clinton now says they oppose big government — and the Congress stands as a symbol of it. The result is that politicians have become forced to denounce the very trade they're in.

— he has lived in constant and sharp pain ever since.

Now Bob Dole seems to have mistimed what he calls the "one last mission" for his generation — and for him. He appears in front of people who rewrite the political process, who lap up talk of "revolution" and "abolition", and offers sentences salted with these words: committee, hearing, testify, commission, proposal. His speechwriter is a few steps away, urging him to deliver a grander vision. "I believe this election is a defining moment in our history," he says. But Bob Dole is not looking the crowd in the eye; he's reading the line off a cue card.

I hope he can play the long-to-winter card," says Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard. "There's something moving about the guy's stoicism."

Moving, yes, but painful, too. There is a twinge of the unpleasant about a political process that asks a 72-year-old man to stand in a car dealer's showroom in Nashua, New Hampshire, and sell himself like a used Buick — and to repeat the pitch over and over again for the better part of two years. Dole's aides refer to this last strait of the campaign as "closing the sale" — but there's not a business in the world that would ask its salesmen to undergo an ordeal like this.

"Running for president requires the discipline to be repetitive," says Texas rival Phil Gramm, and he's right. Candidates have to repeat the same speech until their gums bleed; journalists have to cover events that are not events, but kabuki theatre in which nothing real happens.

Advisors have to say things they know are not true — "I couldn't be more pleased with the way things are going," says Dole communications director Mari Will — and reporters report them anyway.

The centrality of the media cannot be overstated: campaign events are not for the people there, but the cameras watching them. Dole toured a micro brewery on Wednesday, sampling a beer called Old Man Ale, which he pronounced "young and fresh". Earlier an aide had cancelled the stop, fearing the obvious headlines. The governor of New Hampshire then intervened on the brewery's behalf. In other words, an event whose sole purpose was media attention was cancelled because of fears of media attention — thereby ensuring media attention.

The whole insane spin cycle is compelling as sport, and American voters follow it more closely than most foreigners would believe. But presidential politics is a world of its own. The new, anonymously-authored hit novel, Primary Colors — which depicts the 1992 Democratic primary season — remarks that the candidates and their staffs live "outside time", sleeping little, eating at midnight, never at rest. But sometimes "the campaign falls away and you remember: other people just have lives. Their normality can seem a reproach. It hurts your eyes, like walking out of a matinee into bright sunlight." The trouble for Bob Dole is that he's been indoors for too long.

Winning candidates make rooms buzz. Men on their way to power inspire a rock star clamour. The response to Bob Dole was like one for Val Doonican

trouble for Bob Dole goes much deeper.

For the political temper of the United States has turned against everything Bob Dole represents — and the mood has turned sharpest inside the Republican Party. Dole has the misfortune to be a veteran Washington politician just as each of those words has become an insult.

"Not a Washington Politician," boasts Steve Forbes' TV ad, as if that alone signalled integrity. Fellow presidential

ord 20,566

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Hands across the Atlantic



Martin Kettle

NEW LABOUR being what it is, there is little doubt where its most eagerly received by-election news of the past week came from, and it was not from Hemsworth. Winter by-elections in the Yorkshire coalfield are a necessary duty for the men and women who run the disciplined machine that is the modern Labour Party, but even the chance to bury Arthur Scargill's new party's challenge in the first round hardly sets the progressive blood coursing as it once did, especially in February.

New Labour's really welcome news came from gentler climes thousands of miles away on the Pacific coast. It came from the state of Oregon, where we learned this week that Sir Francis Drake once pitched his camp and where on Wednesday the Democrat candidate Ron Wyden captured a Senate by-election from the previously all-conquering Republicans after the incumbent had been forced to resign in a sexual harassment scandal. In itself, Wyden's defeat of his Republican opponent for the vacant Senate seat is of little practical consequence even in America, where Newt Gingrich's Republican majority remains securely in control, let alone here in Britain. Its indicative value, on the other hand, is something else. It tells Tony Blair a story which he very much wants to hear.

Office strategists, it will be one down, one to go. Can't you just see Brian Mahwinny unveiling one of these snappy posters? It may never happen anyway, not least because Britain may well find itself going to the polls before America but also because elections are always settled on the home front, not as part of some supposed global trend. Common sense scepticism, you may say, yet it is surprising how many political professionals believe that the connections matter.

Perhaps this is just because they enjoy flying to America every couple of years — who would not? — to check on the latest election techniques. Perhaps it is because our political class is still beguiled by the belief that what happens in the last American election will happen in our next one; there's a lot of that about too, in all parties. Or perhaps — and this needs to be taken rather more seriously than it has been so far — the New Labour project has always been rather specially defined in an Anglo-American context. Intellectually, it is, as the New Yorker profile of Blair suggests, a Transatlantic Project.

Blair would deny this, I think. He would say that New Labour's mind is open to any interesting ideas and political lessons, wherever they come from. He would point out that he has always taken a special interest in Australia, which is true, and that his recent visit to the Far East underlines his openness to what is happening there too, which is also true. He would say that in the new world of global markets and international deregulation, all parties and governments must take account of all such lessons anyway. And then he would stress, above all, that New Labour has to reach its own solutions and that nobody's blueprint can be transplanted unamended from one country to another anyway.



The way it was... dockers queue up to seek casual work in Liverpool in the sixties. For many today, lack of security has returned to the world of work. PHOTOGRAPHS: COLIN JONES

Working backwards

Employers call it flexibility but to the new breed of contract workers it just means greater insecurity, says EDWARD PILKINGTON

IF THE cliché that our self-image is largely defined by our work is still valid in these fluid, high technology times, then Gary Taylor must have a pretty peculiar picture of himself. "I don't know anybody else who has had as many jobs as I have," he says with understatement. Which is just as well. Over the past 10 years he has held down no less than 14 jobs.

He works in the fibreglass industry, a business notorious for the fluctuations in its fortunes. For Taylor, a decade of loyal service making and fitting fibreglass car parts, bath-room suites and other household goods has been as comfortable and cosy as a rickety roller-coaster ride.

Temporary work is as old as agriculture, which has always ebbed and flowed with the seasons. But latest official figures show that the instability bug is rapidly spreading out of seasonal sectors and is beginning to infect areas normally perceived as rock solid.

The number of temporary workers as a whole has grown by a third in the past five years, to 1.5 million — and in contrast to the Soviet realist stereotype more than half of them are women. A report published this week revealed that the growth is more noticeable in some sectors than others, and nowhere more than on the factory floor. Manufacturing has seen an increase in its numbers of workers in temporary posts of nearly 70 per cent.

What these dry statistics tell us is that a wind of change is sweeping across British industry. Employers say the change is towards greater flexibility, efficiency and competitiveness in a harsh global economy. Unions see it more as change towards greater insecurity, falling wages and diminished rights.

"There is a lot said against temporary work," says Lilian Bennett, chairman of Manpower, the country's largest job-placement agency. "But little is said about the advantages to individuals. In an increasingly competitive world, temporary work has got to be better than no work at all."



Fear of losing even badly paid work haunts many

The wind of change has blown in with it a new vocabulary. The concept of transience has been zapped up and repackaged, like the process of sprucing up or foliating politicians. In an attempt to make a virtue out of necessity, advocates have strived to add glamour and remove ancient stigmas. So out goes the old plain English description "temporary work". In comes the new buzz word: short-term contracts.

The glitz looks distinctly tarnished, however, when viewed from the position of those at the sharp end. Sus Warby is a supervisor of the Transport and General Workers' Union at a Glaxo Wellcome plant in Ware, Hertfordshire, which makes pharmaceutical drugs. She now has a permanent position with the company, but a few years ago she was employed on a short-term basis.

from eczema with the worry. Money came in sporadically, and I can remember when we had to eat semolina made with water — that's how hard it was." Now they "want for nothing", she says, and are able to look ahead. But with her union hat on she contrasts to witness the impact that insecurity can have on people's lives.

At present Glaxo Wellcome employs relatively few temporary workers — only 20 out of more than 1,000 staff — but with seasonal variations, that number can rise.

was sent off site on a Friday and called back to work on the Monday. Imagine how it felt for her being jobless one minute and back to work the next."

The ripple of uncertainty passing through the heart of British manufacturing has long been an intimate feature of employment in other walks of life, from catering to public services. Anne — she asked for her real name not to be used — works as an unqualified nursing assistant in a hospital in southern England. She has been on short-term contracts for the past six years, gradually working her way up the casual ladder.

She began as the lowest of the low — a "bank" worker, which meant she was effectively on monthly contracts. "I worked regularly on the same ward for two years, but it didn't feel like that. I never knew if I would be working month to month."

She gradually improved her lot and has now succeeded in ascending to the dizzy heights of someone on a two-year contract. The problem is that it terminates next February, and she is already fretting about what lies ahead. With two small children at home, a return to irregular shift patterns would destroy her domestic calm.

Employers are moving into short-term contracts because it allows them to fine-tune labour costs according to the amount of work available. It spares them costly and cumbersome redundancy procedures and makes them arguably more customer sensitive. The fashion has been set by so-called "just-in-time" practices

pioneered in Japan, where products are no longer held in storage but only produced as and when there is a demand.

That's good for the economy as a whole, say firms that rely to some extent on short-term contracts, such as Raleigh bicycles or Black & Decker. But Anne's experience suggests there may also be a serious economic downside.

She feels unable to plan her future because it is so uncertain. She hasn't taken out a mortgage, buys few consumer goods or luxuries, and has only had one holiday in many years — three days at a nearby seaside resort. She does not invest because she feels there is nothing to invest in.

"It's not money that's the problem, as I earn as much as permanent nurses. It's the fear that next year I may be earning nothing."

As Chris Ford of the Low Pay Unit put it: "Efficiency and competitiveness are not just about saving costs. They are also about people feeling relaxed and confident enough to be imaginative. How can you be when you are standing on a cliff edge?"

After 10 years, Gary Taylor has finally pulled back from the cliff and can now look beyond the sheer drop at his feet to the horizon beyond. For most of last year he worked on a short-term contract for PPG, a fibreglass factory in Wigan, Lancashire, but has now been taken on permanently. He still can't believe his luck.

"It's taking a while for it to sink in — my future is more secure. It's been a long haul and I learnt how to deal with it. But you can only cope with being temporary so long."

Snotty toffs in tabloidese shocker

Why can't posh writers hack it like a real hack? SIMON HOGGART defends the wordcraft of the much-maligned tabloid journalist

EVERYBODY seems to think they can write like the tabloid newspapers, but almost nobody can. This creates towering embarrassment for readers when even competent novelists try their hand at writing the Sun. You'll have seen the kind of thing, often produced by thriller writers who pride themselves on their gritty depiction of Britain as it really is: "Look at this, Pomfret," said Inspector Figgis, handing his assistant a copy of the Daily Globe. The lurid headline read: Dreadful Discovery at Edgcombe Grange. The article began: "There was a dreadful discovery yesterday at Edgcombe Grange, the home of Sir Ephraim Malfezoor, the prominent financier. Pettigrew, Sir Ephraim's long-serving butler, had entered the conservatory late on Tuesday night carrying his

master's habitual nightcap of brandy and soda, when he was shocked to discover he had stumbled upon the bloodstained body of the noted merchant banker.

"Ambulance crews were summoned from the West Loamshire Hospital, but Sir Ephraim was found to be dead, in what are believed to be suspicious circumstances. Officers from Scotland Yard have been alerted..."

I made that up, but you'll have read similar disasters. I was reminded of them again by the publication this week of Edwina Currie's new novel, A Woman's Place. One of her characters is a sleazy tabloid journalist who is thought by his employers to be a brilliant writer.

Yet Mrs Currie's account of his account of the Prime Minister's resignation begins thus: "Today at the Con-

servative Party Conference the Prime Minister dropped the biggest bombshell of his career. As delegates prepared to deliver the traditional standing ovation — expected to last six or seven minutes as usual — a dramatic change came over the man who has led the nation for the last six years.

"In a shock departure from his standard text, in which he was to call for national renewal and a revival of Tory values..."

Mr Betts does not mention that the Prime Minister has resigned until his fourth paragraph, 138 words into his article, a piece which would get him sacked from the humblest parish magazine.

affair. He spent the night in cells and will appear in court this morning..."

I don't want to be too rude about Mrs Currie's work, since I could not do it myself — but this ersatz journalism makes one's teeth fur over.

Here I must break a small confidence. I happened to be present in Alice Springs, Australia, at the first meeting between the Prince of Wales and Andrew Morton, who later wrote Princess Di, Her True Story.

This was at a cocktail party to mark the start of Charles and Diana's first tour abroad. Technically these events are off the record, but it was 14 years ago, and we can always pretend I was actually eavesdropping on a mobile phone.

him wrinking his nose in disdain, but that may be unfair), "why on earth did you join the Daily Star?"

For some reason I found this response intensely annoying and, inspired by sudden courage, launched into a defence of tabloid journalism and how much more difficult their job is than ours.

And it is. Any fool can write about a difference of emphasis between the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor if they have a thousand words to do it in; the trick is far, far harder if you have only 150. Whatever you think about our tabloid press, its writers are among the finest craftsmen in the world, their skills honed by an intense competition found almost nowhere else. In the punch-line of the old joke, "it may be shit, but it's awfully well cooked."

My suggestion is that a tabloid reporter who wants to make a bit on the side should set up an agency providing newspaper copy for novelists. They all get it wrong. It brings the reader up short. It grates, and for a tiny fraction of Mrs Currie's royalties it would be money well spent.

I was that original head-scratching Fast-Track Kid

GARY YOUNGE has a tip for Mr Blair

WHEN I was four years old I used to scratch my head until it bled. My nursery school teacher caught me in the act, with a fist full of scap, and referred me to a child psychologist who diagnosed boredom and recommended that I be sent to infant school at the first opportunity.

And so I skipped a year of playing with stickle bricks and tentatively pulled out on to what Tony Blair has now christened the "fast track" of a future Labour government's educational superhighway. As a robust and precocious toddler, with a mother for a teacher and two elder brothers to slap me into a socially acceptable shape, it was quite an uneventful journey.

Unlike the editor of the Daily Telegraph, Charles Moore, who wrote this week about his experiences of being fast-tracked at Eton, I was not daunted by the prospect of "composing Latin verses and Greek prose". At the end of his first term Mr Moore came

to the nickname "grade A boy". Fast-tracking is one option that might suit certain children, in certain schools, from certain backgrounds as it did me. But it does not add up to a national policy. Nor is it anything new: the solution to my head-scratching was found in 1973.

Worse still I could have actually become a nerd. I still recall watching the famously obnoxious Ruth Lawrence on John Craven's Newsround, the walls of her bedroom covered with geometric equations and her proud father intervening every time an interviewer asked her if she wouldn't rather have some friends than lots of top grade A-levels at the age of 10. She is now 24, and re-creating "nerd theory" — a method of examining geometric constructions — at a scientific institute near Paris. She still lives with her father who still answers her questions for her. All of which goes to show that however fast the track there are no short cuts for producing well-rounded human beings.

There is, however, a very easy way to stunt their growth: put them in the slow lane. Categorising children as remedial is bad enough. But force a child of 15 to sit in a class of 13 year-olds and watch them in a lifelong, uphill struggle for self-esteem because they have had "I am thick" tattooed on their foreheads.

Lord Wakeham, the press watchdog, is the ultimate fixer with a finger in every important pie. Photograph by GRAHAM TURNER

Oiling along rather nicely, thanks

The MEGAN TRESIDDER



INTERVIEW

JOHN WAKEHAM does not look like a figure to make a journalist nervous. Rumples-faced, rumpled-suited, his trousers held up with braces, he looks, at the age of 63, like many other Tory grandees in the House of Lords. He is a veteran of the Conservative Party, serving it for 18 years until 1992 and earning the nickname of Mr Fixit because of his skill at behind-the-scenes jobs. He was Chief Whip, Leader of both the Commons and the Lords, and Lord President of the Council (as well as Energy Secretary). What a wit once said about another politician could be applied to Wakeham: he is a man who has "seen without traces".

It was the Brighton bomb in 1984, which, tragically, made him well-known. It killed his wife, and left him trapped under rubble for seven hours, severely damaging his legs, which will cause him pain. He has remarried, to Alison, Mrs Thatcher's former secretary, and lives in Hampshire. He has three children, the youngest is nine.

To journalists, Wakeham is something more. As chairman of the Press Complaints Commission he is the headmaster no one wants to be called in to see. He and his commission can humiliate journalists publicly by upholding complaints against them.

This week marked the end of his first year in the job, celebrated with a party which, being full of brags, he admits "went on a bit". He also issued journalists with an end-of-year report: "You are cleaning up your act. Keep at it and remember we have been a very busy team. It was a nice phrase that the one used by his predecessor, Lord McGregor (who accused journalists of "dabbling their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls"), but Wakeham's remark was a well-earned half-fellow-well-met clap on the back either.

Everyone likes Wakeham. Though a master at party politicking, he is said to be straight-up in dealings with people. When he arrived back in the Commons, four months after the Brighton bomb, he was cheered on both sides. You wonder how the experience af-

fects his personality. "I don't talk much about it," he says. "It does affect me in that I am particularly grateful that I have been able to rebuild my life. It has rounded my character a bit. I am not so argumentative as I was. It has helped me become a better fixer."

He is well-known for his sense of humour. The joke potential of our encounter, between a member of the press and the press watchdog is not lost on him. He decides not to talk in his own office, where he would disturb his room-mates. Instead, we sit down in the huge Lords' Royal Gallery. Baroness Smith suggests we move somewhere warmer. "Ah," Wakeham says, "but when it's too cold, they don't stay too long, you see."

He has more fun later on, when asked whether the past year has given him more or less respect for the press. "Probably more," he says, "and strangely enough, more respect for the tabloids. The truth of the matter is that the tabloids are in a highly competitive business, fighting on the very margins of what is possible and what is not possible to say, and very well aware that if they don't run a story, their competition will. And they also know that papers like yours and the Telegraph are sitting there with reams and reams of copy, waiting for the tabloids to commit themselves just once, and then away you go."

This is technically a foul, except that Wakeham is the referee. The consensus, after his first year in the job, is that he has been a good one. He is generally thought to have shown common sense in warning papers in advance to leave Prince William alone at Eton. He is credited with heading off the Government's threat of statutory curbs on press freedom. Even the suspicion that he would betray a Tory bias has melted away. Wakeham says, unabashedly, that this is because he always acts with integrity. "The thing about the world I have operated in is that people trust you because they've trusted you before. If I say to someone as Chief Whip, 'Look you can't have a debate next week but if you lay off, you can have it the following week and what is more, I'll get the Prime Minister to take part in it, I have to deliver'."

But there are a few clouds hanging around the offices of the Press Complaints Commission. There is the row over Prince Philip for a start. Last year, Wakeham made the headlines after warning, on the eve of the Princess of Wales's Panorama interview, that those "who voluntarily bring their private life into the public domain... must bear the consequences of their actions."

He says he was not, as critics claimed, arguing for a return to the days when the House of Windsor put up a blank wall against the press. "Maybe it is right to discuss some of these things but you can't then expect newspapers not to join in the discussion. It is up to that individual to set the parameters."

Would he say the same to Prince Charles, after his interview with Dimbleby? "Yeah sure," he shrugs. "It's the same for everybody."

Including for Julia Carling whose complaints against the Sun were rejected this week by the PCC, on the grounds that she "had clearly placed details of her past and current relationships into the public domain by virtue of articles and interviews designed, in part to enhance her image [and] promote her career". It does not, he insists, set any precedent. The PCC, he points out, ruled against the News of the World last year when it used the same argument to defend pictures of Earl Spencer's wife, saying he had surrendered his privacy by inviting Hello! magazine into his home.

"That was rubbish in my view," says Wakeham. "He had presented a part of his life — his house and grounds — partly to raise money to keep



Lord Wakeham... 'I am not a Tory grandee. Not that I feel inferior to the Tory grandees. I am one of the few people in politics who started with just £300

the show going, in a perfectly reasonable, civilised fashion. That doesn't therefore entitle the press to take pictures of Lady Spencer in hospital with a telephoto lens. Whereas," he adds, "it was quite clear to us that in the case of Julia Carling, she had courted publicity."

But isn't there a huge difference between volunteering publicity and having it thrust on you?

"Sure... and the Commission has to weigh these things up. But in practice it is not that difficult to decipher the action you should take from the sort of publicity someone is after."

This suggests that the Commission sympathised with Earl Spencer for selling his story to raise funds for his house but did not sympathise with Julia Carling for promoting his own career. Is Wakeham saying that the motive of someone who chooses publicity is material to a PCC judgment?

"In so far as the motive is apparent, probably it is material. All I am saying is that a person who seeks publicity runs the risk — no more than that — that it will be harder to defend their privacy. It doesn't mean it gives carte blanche to newspapers."

If the decisions made under his reign seem controversial, he adds, it is for good reason.

"What is quite clearly happening is that newspapers are getting a higher percentage of complaints before they come to the PCC because they recognise that we mean business. But that does mean that the ones we get to adjudicate on are much more difficult."

UNDER his chairmanship, the Commission of 17 members (eight of whom are from the press) manages to reach a consensus ten times a year, on a dozen or so cases a time. "It is a skillful operation," he says, again without false modesty. "I ask people what are the arguments against you? Maybe the differences are very narrow. Some people feel that even to articulate the other person's point of view is to half concede but I believe in rational discussion and good humour." But his reputation as Mr Fixit, he adds, can be a millstone. "The more people call you a fixer, the more difficult it is to be the fixer next time. It makes people highly suspicious."

What hasn't he been able to fix? "Oh well, lots of things. I was campaign manager for Mrs Thatcher for six hours. Six hours after I became her campaign manager, she gave up. So that wasn't very successful."

Wakeham entered politics fairly late at the age of 42. His

father was a trained civil engineer later set up his own garage business. Wakeham at first thought of becoming a writer — "my father said it was the best job you could do but then he told me, 'you haven't got any talent'... to write, I mean." Instead, he chose accountancy, working for Arthur Young, where he audited books for oil companies. At 28, he set up his own business, specialising in construction machinery. By the time he entered the Commons in 1974, he was very wealthy. He also had a huge number of directorships — "I had 62 before I went into Parliament". He pruned them down to four, but since retiring from politics, he has been building them up again.

"I can only manage a couple of dozen now," he jokes. (It's actually "eight or nine"). Still, quite a lot of extra jobs for the PCC chairman. "I am a businessman," he shrugs. "I am interested in solving problems." His latest post, which he takes up in June, is the chairmanship of the British Horseracing Board (annual salary £28,000), which has taken over from the Jockey Club in running the sport. Wakeham has talked enthusiastically about reforming the sport away from its elitist past and about how the next chairman might be drawn from the ranks of train-

ees and breeders. At which you can't help pointing out that in the meantime, the sport is dominated by Tory grandees. Wakeham actually shares a coat-peg with Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote. "I am not a Tory grandee," he protests. "I am one of the few people in politics who started with £300. Not that I feel inferior to the Tory grandees..." It is true, he concedes, that the chairmanship of the Tote is in the gift of the Home Secretary, but at the BHB, it is an elected post.

The division bell now

clings, ending any chance of finding out how Wakeham plans to democratise the racing world. For the press, though, the pressure appears to be off and in the course of nearly an hour, no red cards have been flourished. But when I play back the tape, I note the words he slipped in after summarising his first year in the job. "The object was to persuade everyone that self-regulation could work," he said, "and since last June, the Government has said that it is certainly working, for the moment."

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Sunday in the park with the down and outs

Lottery money may give urban parks a makeover, says PATRICK WRIGHT

JUST as our urban parks are looking their bleak, mid-winter worst, along comes the possibility of £50 million of Lottery money to revivify them, thanks to the National Heritage Memorial Foundation.

Yet although many parks still command great loyalty, most are in a very sad state, some abandoned almost entirely to dogs, others used as dumping grounds by the police, keen to keep the disorderly and insane off the streets. Vandalism is rife. The typical inner-city park story is less about constructed recreation than unguarded chaos, with syringes in the sandpit and muggers lurking behind the trees.

It is too easy to turn the run-down park into a symbol of wider dereliction and yet there can be little doubt that something has gone badly wrong. As leader of the late GLC, Ken Livingstone once pointed out that herbage borders, being labour intensive, were early victims of the cuts.

Yet if money is part of the story, urban green spaces are also suffering from our lack of any proper conception as to what they might actually be. Victorian parks once exemplified what could be done to ease the tensions of city life, but in recent decades we have failed to come up with a comparable vision. The innovations we have seen have been piecemeal and as it turns out, imported from elsewhere — the garden festival, the adventure playground, the inner-city farm.

We have done very little to adjust our public parks to the changed circumstance of the modern city, or to the fact that the urban population is now both more specialised in its recreational interests, and more diverse than the Victorian public ever was.

The present possibilities of the park often seem lost in a cloud of conflicting priorities. Every interested lobby has its own set. The advocates of open spaces are inclined to insist that all open space in the city is good, even though there is plen-



Bench life... city parks are now largely outdated. PHOTO: DAVID SALLITOE

tiful evidence that some urban open spaces are bleak, miserable, underused places, and actually do good to anyone.

"The playing fields lobby pursues its own bent, reluctant to accept that playing fields may already be in good supply, or that they may absorb a larger proportion of maintenance

budget than can easily be justified by their use. There is an equally single-minded green argument that urban parks should be allowed to revert to wilderness, as if these were "natural" places in which people have only a marginal right.

History can get in the way

too. We owe a lot to the Victorian campaigners who fought hard to save so many of our urban open spaces from development, but they also lumbered us with a problem. Their parks were organised around such an exclusive idea of appropriate usage that some 19th century park planners are said to have been surprised to hear that working class people even wanted to visit them.

Access of that kind may no longer be the major problem, but the polite visual aesthetics that continue to govern so much thinking about parks may still work against legitimate public interests in the present, discounting any thought of new buildings and dis-trusting any activity beside quiet contemplation.

If we are to find a better future for the urban park, then we need to get beyond the vague assumption that all parks are inherently good things. Some open spaces are windswept wastes, no use to anyone. Others would be improved by being devoted to new and specialist uses — including those loud American sports that involve tarmac and seem particularly offensive to the historically-minded.

The National Heritage Memorial Foundation has broadened its outlook considerably since its first statements on lottery funding, which gave the impression that grants would be confined to the restoration of historic features like bandstands and railings. The advisory panel, set up to assist in the grant-making, seems to lean heavily towards the historical perspective of the Garden History Society (a criminologist and an avant-garde sculptor should be added immediately), but the guidelines for the Urban Parks Programme try to reach out. They admit new structures — as long as they are "appropriate" and see that play areas and leisure facilities have a legitimate place even in historical parks.

More useful now would be a series of initiatives with different kinds of urban park: pilot projects perhaps, which demonstrate what could be done to fit the public park to the present public and its interests. Some historical parks should certainly be preserved, but there will be other places where renewal can hardly be achieved even under this moderately expanded definition of heritage.

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The Aix and pains of genius



They shared an idyllic Provençal childhood but their intense friendship ended in bitterness.

IT'S never fun being a new boy. Emile was 13 when he went to the Collège Bourbon in Aix-en-Provence, and in that small, oppressively enclosed town he was an outsider. His father, who had died four years earlier, was Italian; Emile himself did not become a French citizen until he was 21. His widowed mother came from the north of France, where he had spent his early years. At the college the pushy Provencal boys called him the *franglais* — Frenchy — because of his Parisian accent. He also had a slight lisp. He wasn't big but he was bright and something of a swot. All in all he was prime bully fodder. They sent him to Coventry.

There was a slightly older and tougher kid called Paul, also an outsider. He too was of Italian extraction, and he had been born out of wedlock. He did not come from one of the ancient bourgeois or aristocratic families that made up stuffy Aix society. His father was a rough-tough sea-made man who had worked his way up from making hats to founding the first bank in Aix, and had bought the 45-acre estate of the Jas de Bouffan which in Louis XIV's time had belonged to the Marquis de Villars, the governor of Provence. Emile's family was poor. In the eyes of Aix society Paul's was worse; it was *nouveau riche*.

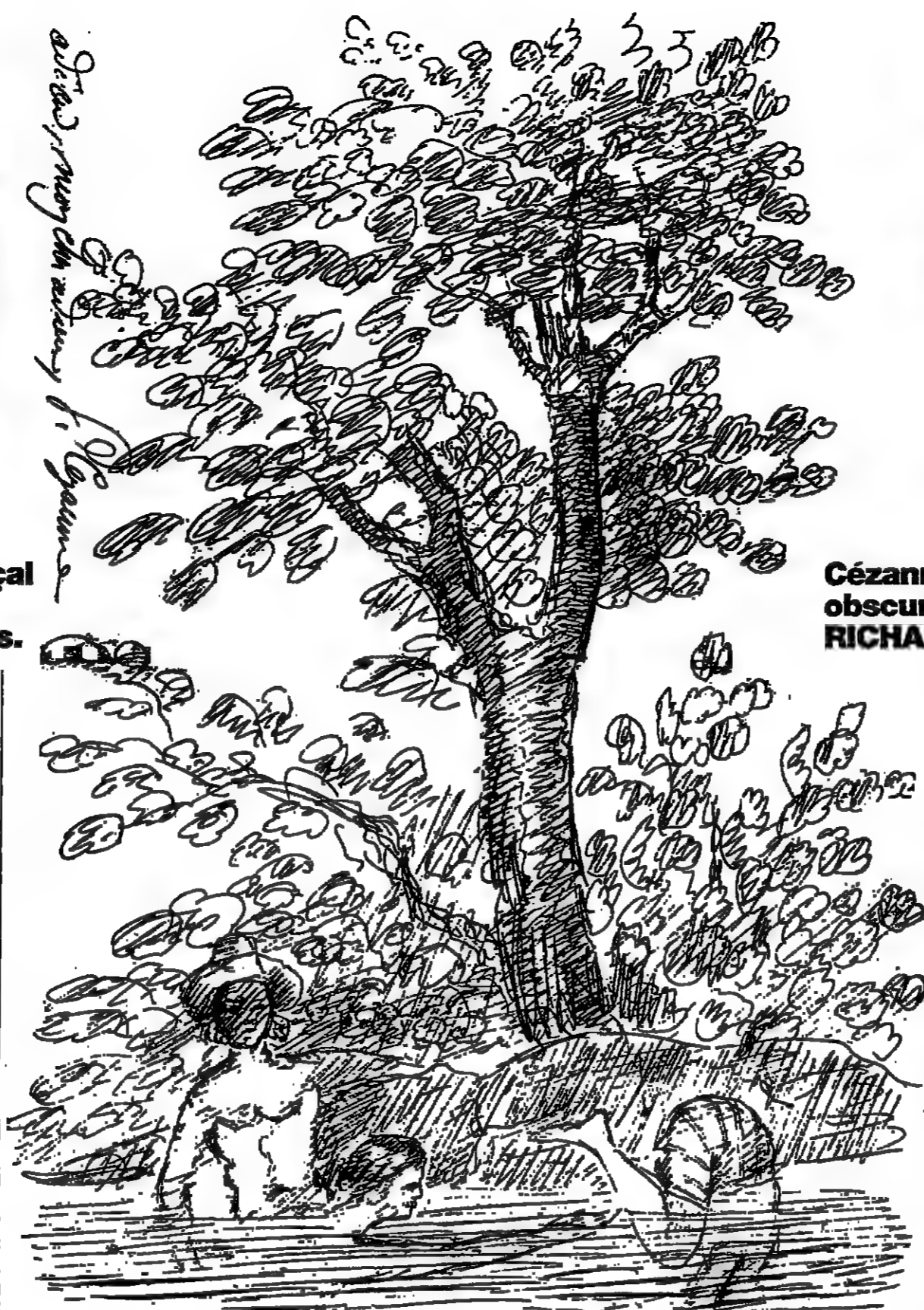
Neither as a schoolboy nor at any other time in his life did Paul go out of his way to make himself popular. He broke the Coventry ban, chatted with Emile, got into a fight and was beaten up by his patins. The next day Emile thanked Paul by going to his home with a present of a basket of apples. Paul was Cézanne and Emile was Zola.

The population of Aix-en-Provence in the 19th century was only about 25,000. For its grammar school to have produced two major historical figures is like lightning striking in the same place twice. Not only that but it produced them simultaneously, and still more extraordinary was the intensity of their friendship. Books on Zola refer to his schoolboy friend Cézanne, his school friend Zola, as though each was a footnote in the life of the other. There was much more to it than that. The friendship between the two was of David and Jonathan intensity and (albeit with reversals) it was life-long.

Baptistin Baillet is a name that would not be remembered today if he hadn't been the third of the "three inseparables", though his role was always a King of the one, subordinate to Zola and Cézanne. The three of them would go for long walks in the countryside around Aix; they would pic-

nic; they would swim in the little river Arc. It was an Arcadian existence, an ideal of happiness. At the beginning of *L'Assommoir* there is a description of the hellish Paris laundry where Gervaise labours, and there she remembers being a laundress in Plasans (Zola's fictional name for Aix): "We used to take the washing to the river (Arc). It smelt better than it does here. It was a lovely place, a spot under the trees, with clear, running water. Gervaise's memories echo the 18-year-old Cézanne's earliest known letter to Zola, written from Aix to Paris. "Do you remember the pine trees which, planted on the bank of the Arc, bowed its shaggy head above the steep slope?" In an autobiographical section of *Le roman expérimental*, Zola writes: "They would spend whole days, stark naked, lying on the burning sand, then diving back into the water. . . They practically lived in the water and sunshine seemed to prolong their childhood. . . Both for Cézanne and Zola the memory of those days was a touchstone of happiness (as it was for poor Gervaise). It was always a reminder — a reminder that life could be like this, that life should be like this. Zola tried to recreate it in his riverside house outside Paris at Medan. Cézanne tried to recreate it in his pictures of bathers (with the addition of over-size female nudes, the sheer clumsiness of whom is, I am sure, as much psychological as pictorial). As well as swimming and picnicking they read voraciously, mostly Victor Hugo and de Musset. They played music — Zola on clarinet, Cézanne on cornet, and with these instruments serenaded a girl until her parents emptied water jugs on them from an upstairs window. They thought a lot about girls. They also planned their careers. Their ambitions were Napoleonic. Zola always spoke of "conquering" Paris. Cézanne would "astound Paris with an apple". But first they had to get there.

Those of us from northern Europe or its offshore islands tend to see the South, the Midi, Provence as a place of freedom and enlightenment. We think of Keats's beaker full of the warm Gorgon, or of van Gogh's sun-drenched fields of yellow light and sunflowers of Arles. For Zola and Cézanne, on the other hand, it was a place to get out of. Paris was where it was, at Provence was stilling. But the first thing to get out of was school. They were bright boys. One of them tended to win the writing prizes, the other the ones for drawing. That's right — Cézanne excelled in writing, Zola in drawing.



Water babies: a sketch Cézanne sent to Zola to remind him of childhood days by the Arc with their friend Baptistin Baillet

Both, though, had problems passing the bac, the matriculation exam. When Cézanne finally passed, his father made him study law, which he loathed as much as he later hated working in his father's bank. By then Zola had gone to Paris on his own (his penname another followed later) and now at the Paris Lycée, a

new boy again, he was teased once more, this time for being Provencal. His nickname (very funny, very cruel) was Gorgonzola. He had no money, he was alone, he was ill, he was unhappy. He longed for Aix and his friends. One summer holiday in Aix was an interval between countless letters begging Cézanne to come to Paris so that they can achieve their ambitions. He tells of a dream in which he has written a book which Cézanne has illustrated, and in the dream "our two names shone together in gold letters

on the title page, and in this brotherhood of genius, went inseparably on to posterity". In his lifetime Cézanne was often referred to as the painter from Aix. Nowadays his huge reputation is based mostly on the pictures he painted in his studio in Aix or in the surrounding landscape, notably Mont Sainte-Victoire. From the almost inept tumult of his early paintings he worked to and achieved such classic calm that you might imagine him serenely contemplating the landscape of Provence and hardly budging from it. In fact Cézanne was never serene, he was always turbulent and restless. After his first visit to Paris in 1861 there was barely a year in which half of it was not spent in Paris or its neighbourhood, and in the 1870s there are nearly four continuous years spent in the north. Even in his last years he took long trips from Aix. As far as I know he never painted a picture in or of Aix itself. His studios were always outside the town, as were his motifs. Yet wherever he went he took Provence with him (not least in the form of large quantities of olive oil, an essential ingredient in his favourite soup). Provence was wherever he happened to be at the time. There are paintings done in Chantilly near Paris that could have been done at the Aixois family home, the Jas de

Bouffan. The contrary is not the case. Likewise there is a sense in which Zola also didn't leave Aix — the sense in which Joyce never left Dublin. He made only a few visits South, and then for necessary reasons such as burying his mother next to his father in the Aix cemetery, and to avoid the Franco-Prussian war and its aftermath. But the whole of his great literary endeavour grows out of Aix. The massive 20-volume series of novels begins and ends in Aix (Plasans). The best-known novels (such as *L'Assommoir*, *Nana*, *Germinal*, *La Bête Humaine*) are set in the north but the protagonists are all members of the Rougon-Macquart family which comes from Plasans. They are twigs and branches on a family tree whose trunk and roots are firmly in Aix. When Cézanne joined Zola in Paris to study art, he met and introduced to Zola the painters later known as the Impressionists, whom Zola was the first to champion in print. Cézanne also introduced Zola to Alexandrine ("Coco") who became his wife, and when they married he was Zola's best man. Zola dedicated his first real book to Cézanne (and Baillet). When Zola became rich and Cézanne's father had halved his allowance, Emile sent

money to Paul and his mistress (later wife) and their son. It was a very close friendship indeed, right into middle age. But the relationship was changing. Zola was no longer the one who was protected. He was very famous and very rich, whereas Cézanne was a failure not only in the eyes of the world but also (it becomes increasingly apparent) of Zola. Zola's initial enthusiasm and proselytising for the Impressionists turned to disappointment and rejection. Then in 1886, when they were in middle age, Zola published *L'Œuvre* (The Masterpiece), especially the early part, in which the painter Claude is clearly Cézanne (as Sandoz is Zola). But in Zola's fictional schema Claude is also a Lantier, and the rules of Zola's novels dictate that any member of the Lantier family is as doomed as



Cézanne, left, laboured in almost total obscurity as Zola's star rose and rose. RICHARD BOSTON tells their story

a member of the House of Atréus or the protagonist of a Hardy novel. Sure enough, Claude is a failure in every way and hangs himself in front of his unfinished masterpiece. The reasons for Cézanne's reaction to *L'Œuvre* are more complicated than is usually made out but the upshot was that he acknowledged receipt of the complimentary copy of the book that Zola sent him and there is no record that they ever communicated again. Cézanne would have nothing more to do with his old friend, while Zola (who was a kind man) always inquired of mutual friends how Paul was getting on. There was one thing about which they never disagreed and that was their home town. "Wonderful place, vile people," Zola said repeatedly in one form or another, and Cézanne felt the same. Emile Bernard records him saying that his compatriots were clouds and that he despised them all. "At this point a look of indescribable contempt came over Cézanne's face and he shook his fist at the town of Aix."

Cézanne hated the weather in Aix. His letters rarely fail to mention that the weather is intolerably hot or intolerably cold. From early years, children in the street had laughed at his unkempt appearance. In his last years, diabetic and sometimes suffering from vertigo, his stumbling walk was taken for drunkenness and stones were thrown at him. The director of the local museum, the Musée Granet, declared that while he was alive, no painting by Cézanne would hang there. The man lived till 1931 and he kept his word. At present there are six paintings by Cézanne in the Musée Granet, all on loan from Paris. Aix's treatment of Cézanne has always been shameful.

Zola's reasons for hating the Aixois went beyond being bullied at school. His Venetian father was an adventurer who was also a brilliant engineer in an age of such great French engineers as Gustave Eiffel. He was responsible for the conception and creation of the dam above Aix. The town had been for a moment the conscience of mankind, said Anatole France on behalf of the Académie Française, the august body which had always rejected his membership, as it had Molière and Balzac. When Cézanne's housekeeper brought him the news of Zola's death he shouted what can only be translated as "Fuck off, fuck off! Everyone leave me alone!" and locked himself in his studio, inconsolable.

In 1868 he unleashed on Aix a polemic the force of which anticipated the *J'accuse* letter which sparked the Dreyfus affair. Picking a quarrel with the local paper, the *Memorial d'Aix*, he denounced the town as stingy, petty and small-minded. He did not ask for financial compensation for his father's wrongs but for recognition of his achievement. It was an outrage that the Zola Canal had been renamed the Aix Canal. There was not a single road or square in the town named after his father. He won. The Aix Canal became the Zola Canal again, and a new road on the outskirts of the town was named after François Zola.

His diatribe had bit home and the insults were not forgotten. His offence was compounded not only by the Dreyfus case (arch-conservative and anti-Semitic Aix naturally being against) but also in the whole tenor of the 20 volumes of the Rougon-Macquart series in which the society of Plasans-Aix is lampooned. Aix simply hated Zola (and still does). His English translator Vizzelli wrote in 1898 (four years before Zola's death) that just as the town of Tarragon never forgave Daudet for his Tartarin, so Zola, "who doubtless counts more enemies than any other literary man of the period, is still bitter than the worthy citizens of Aix". Zola died of asphyxiation on September 29, 1902 (misadventure, manslaughter or murder?) He was buried in Montparnasse cemetery by a crowd about twice the size of the population of Aix. During the Dreyfus affair, Zola had been for a moment the conscience of mankind, said Anatole France on behalf of the Académie Française, the august body which had always rejected his membership, as it had Molière and Balzac. When Cézanne's housekeeper brought him the news of Zola's death he shouted what can only be translated as "Fuck off, fuck off! Everyone leave me alone!" and locked himself in his studio, inconsolable.

J'Accuse — the city that shunned its brightest sons

IN 1906 a statue of Zola was unveiled in Aix in the presence of his wife Alexandrine and (right at the back) Cézanne. The statue had been left unpublished by another school friend, Philippe Solari, who had died earlier that year. Mayor Cabassol, son of Louis-Auguste's partner in the bank of Cézanne & Cabassol, talked about Zola's youth and how in 1858 Zola had left Aix to become a painter. "since become the great modern painter we know". The mayor was followed by Numa Coste, another old school friend who remem-

bered "the three inseparables" of those early days: "We were then at the dawn of life. . . We dreamed of the conquest of Paris. . . When Zola had preceded the group to Paris he sent his first literary efforts to his old friend Paul Cézanne, at the same time letting all of us share his hopes. We read these letters amidst the hills, in the shade of the oak trees, as one reads commentaries of the beginning of a campaign." By now the tears were pouring down Cézanne's cheeks. The old painter probably couldn't see much as his friends embraced;

Numa Coste and Alexandrine Zola, in front of the bust of Zola made years before by Solari, another old friend who had gone. *Le Memorial d'Aix* reported the event in six lines. This is more than it gave to Cézanne when he died later that same year, an event of which (as far as I have been able to discover) the local paper gave no report at all. In 1911 another bust of Zola was unveiled in Aix. *Le Memorial d'Aix* protested that nothing justified this monument to an author who had slandered and libelled Aix when the city



Aix-en-Provence: both men hated its small-mindedness

had no monuments to such as Vauvenargues, Mignet and Thiers. This time there was a riot. Right-wing demonstrators greeted the unveiling of the bust with deafening whistles, fighting broke out, the police charged and there was a general free-for-all which was only controlled by mounted police backed up by a whole company of the 61st regiment. Two members of the proto-fascist Action Française were arrested. During the second world war the statue was melted down to provide war material for the Nazis. In the 1950s a duplicate statue was presented to Aix. It is to be found (with great difficulty) in the remotest corner of a park on the outskirts. Towns all over France have streets and squares named after Emile

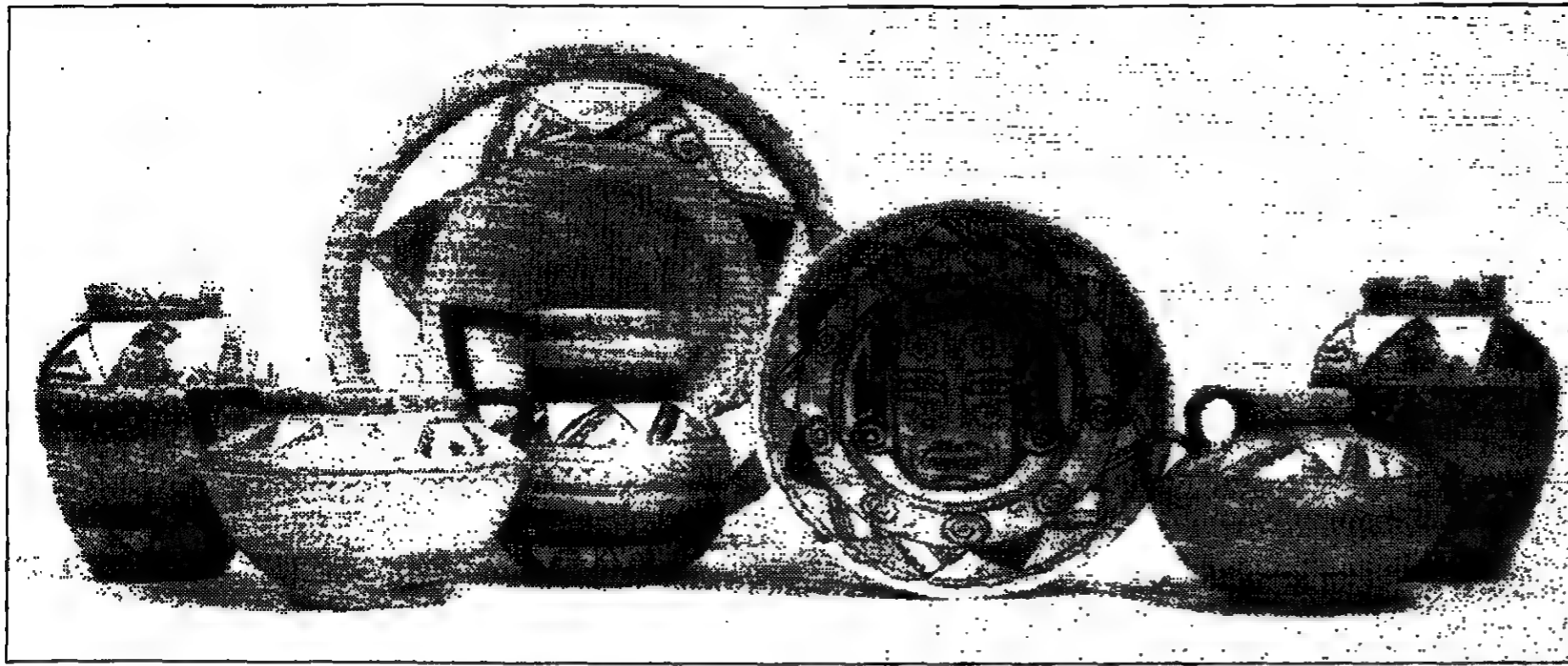
Zola. In Aix, father and son share (again on the outskirts) the Boulevard François de Zola. In the current edition of the *Green Michelin* on Provence, the section on literature mentions Henri Bosco, Alphonse Daudet, Jean Giono, Marcel Pagnol and

Peter Mayle. But not Zola. Zola is buried in the Panthéon in Paris alongside Voltaire, Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Jean Jaures and Jean Monnet. Cézanne is buried in Aix-en-Provence, in the Mont Saint-Victoire, only a few yards from Zola's mother and father.



RICHARD BOSTON, who has been writing for the Guardian on and off for almost 30 years, is working on a book about Cézanne and Zola and their relationship with Aix-en-Provence where he himself spends part of the year. The Cézanne exhibition, the most important survey of the artist's work for nearly 60 years, already seen at the Grand Palais in Paris, opens at the Tate Gallery in London next Friday and runs there until April 28. It includes 90 of Cézanne's paintings and 70 watercolours and drawings.

Mabel Leigh



Feet of clay... a group of Khimara bowls and vases from the 'Period Pottery' collection, made by Mabel Leigh (right) for Shorter and Son in the thirties

Fired with enthusiasm

MABEL Leigh, who has died aged 81, will be remembered for the art pottery she designed for Shorter and Son during the thirties.

When Royal Cauldon closed she was offered the position of designer at the Shorter pottery in Stoke-on-Trent.

Her work was marketed as a design contrast and as a consumer alternative to the outrageous "Jazz Age" and "Bizarre" wares designed by Clarice Cliff at Newport.

ductive years she left to work at the Crown Ducal pottery with Charlotte Rhoads.

a magical Japanese garden as a haven for wildlife. As a freelance artist she hand-decorated tiles for H and G Thynne, but she spent much of her retirement painting and embroidering and tending the innumerable cats which found their way to her doorstep.



Mabel Leigh, potter, born January 5, 1915; died January 22, 1996

Mary Bruce

Dancing on mean streets

MARY BRUCE, who has died aged 85, brought street kids of Chicago's South Side and Harlem to dance — as well as stars like Marlon Brando, Katherine Dunham, and Dorothy Dandridge.

She scoured the neighbourhood for pupils but in doing so had to contend with street gangs, prompting her to enrol at Columbia University on psychology and Spanish courses.

Bruce was born of African-American, Irish and Cherokee descent in Mississippi but by 1909 her family had arrived in Chicago.

Her legacy can be seen in various film, TV and stage productions but her influence went further than that: "It was the first Mary Bruce who was a Negro," recalled her pupil Marie Bryant.

Bruce took what she had learned from ballet and immersed herself in the jazz dance component of early show dance. Her interest was aroused by Lew Leslie's Blackbirds, and from then on she tracked down any visiting dancers to Chicago to identify steps and sequences for her teaching while developing her own brand of "rhythm dance".

Her professional performances developed alongside the teaching, and Duke Ellington's assistant director, Andy Razaf, had to come to Harlem to work there.

Bruce set up a new studio above the Baby Grand Club on the corner of St Nicholas Avenue and West 125th Street where she taught for 50 years.

Mary Bruce, dance teacher, born August 25, 1910; died December 12, 1995

Another Day

February 3, 1887: Walk with Tennyson to Brook Bay, ship ashore, the Fannie Lorabee from Bath, large, three masts, good model. There are people on the shore, but T. doesn't seem to mind.

Letter

Michael J Smith writes: Eric Briault (obituary, January 30) was not only an excellent educational administrator. He was equally successful as a London schoolmaster, notably at Latymer Upper School, where he taught geography.



Denise Grey... 'she sparkles, she bubbles, she preens'

Denise Grey

Singer who stole the show

DENISE GREY, who has died aged 79, was a pillar of the French theatre and cinema, an actress whose career embraced every sort of drama and entertainment.

Saint-Granier, was given a solo spot at the cabaret La Fled Qui Chant.

Gautier wrote, "As for Denise Grey in the dizzy role of the mother, she brings a breath of life, she sparkles, she bubbles, she preens, she makes one laugh until the tears come."

Born near Turin as Edouardine Vertu, she began her career as a comedienne, then took to fashion modelling. In the pioneer days of the cinema this was one of the natural routes into screen acting.

He brought me in as musical director last year on a hair-raising version of Mescal — for which he designed special equipment — featuring the Mormon Tabernacle choir, his favourite Ebenezer Prout orchestration and a British conductor and soloists.

Denise Grey, actress, born September 17, 1906; died January 13, 1986

Weekend Birthdays



Those of us who use the Open University as a comforter late and early, blink a wake over the Age of Enlightenment and close lids with Science Foundation, think of Stuart Hall, 64 today, as our favourite TV presenter.

89: Baroness (Doris) O'Connell, former director, Barbican Centre, 88; Elaine Padmore, radio announcer, opera singer, director, Royal Danish Opera, 49; Bobby Simpson, former Australian cricketer, 60; Glenn Tietley, ballet choreographer, 70; Frankie Vaughan, singer, 63.

Death Notices

ALLAN Arthur Gordon Stephenson, TD (obituary, January 20), died on January 31, 1996, GORDON, aged 83 years, loving and devoted husband of MURIEL, sister of RICHARD, GORDON, and CHARLES, and grandson of OSCAR, James Street, St. Catharines Episcopal Church, Westshore Avenue, Edinburgh. Funeral service on Wednesday, February 8, 11.00 at Glasgow Green Crematorium.

In Memoriam

METHEUNSTON, John W. (16.6.1908 - 02.12.1995) Christina W (his wife died 1943).

Engagements

MR A J COOPER and MISS J M KENYON. The engagement is announced between Cooper, son of Professor and Mrs Malcolm Cooper, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Kenyon, Warwickshire.

John Mosely

Through a sound barrier

JOHN MOSELY, who has died aged 82 in an aircraft accident in the United States, was a pioneer of stereophonic sound. He became fascinated by the way it could solidify our aural impression of recorded music while still at Clifton College and had taken its development some way when we collaborated in 1957 on a recording of music by Thomas Tomkins.

which was monstrously impossible. John achieved a splendid stereo balance within the spacious acoustic of St Bart's, Smithfield. We stayed up all night editing tapes which he then took to New York.

He travelled widely, extending his expertise in recording and classical music to include business administration and international finance.

Having written a book about Tomkins I wished to clarify for listeners the actual sound of antiphonal choirs.

Despite the paroxysmal attitudes of recording industry colleagues John knew that he had in his hand luggage something fabulous and far-reaching. He also knew that the music could not then be issued on disc since no agreement had then been reached on methods of cutting. Under-

land, he was in charge of recording and technical development for Pye Records and in the US for Night Technologies. In Japan, he modified Sansul's four-channel system



Mosely... Boutin to Satchel

into the five channels used in the 1974 film of Tommy. When moved to Hollywood his 16-Db improvement to Tom's recorded sound won him an Oscar in 1985.

John Mosely, recording expert and entrepreneur, born March 8, 1933; died October 7, 1995

Face to Faith

Our new sacred texts

Roger Hutton

FOR THE atheist, the humanist, the rationalist, there is a dilemma. However much we might want an end to religion, we fear creating a society in which there is no moral focus. How, without the divine authority claimed by the established religions, can we go about providing a workable morality for a post-religious world?

But while religion has ceded much ground to science in explaining the structure and functioning of nature, it retains two citadels which the scientific enterprise has thus far failed to breach. First, the empirical ammunition and theoretical firepower needed to establish a definitive explanation of the origin of the universe continues to elude science. Perhaps, as Buddhists would argue, the ultimate truth can never be described, only experienced.

Second, and more urgently, science has demonstrated little capacity to replace the moral dimension of religion — a subject of increasing concern, most recently in education. At its most absurd, science tells us nothing about how we should lead our lives. The behavioural models it has provided — in Darwinian natural selection, for example — more readily suggest how nature should not be emulated in human societies.

It is not surprising, then, that religionists crowd about science's inability to supplant religion. But in a crucial sense, this misses the point. Science and religion are only two of three variables in the equation: the third is art.

While science has progressively undermined the intellectual foundations of religion and secular society has evolved, art has replaced its emotional-spiritual and social functions. In place of a religious society anchored to monolithic sacred texts, secular society exists in a continuum of great works of literature, music, drama, painting, sculpture, and documentary.

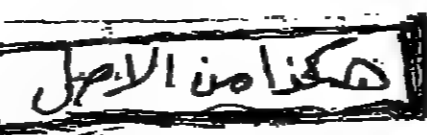
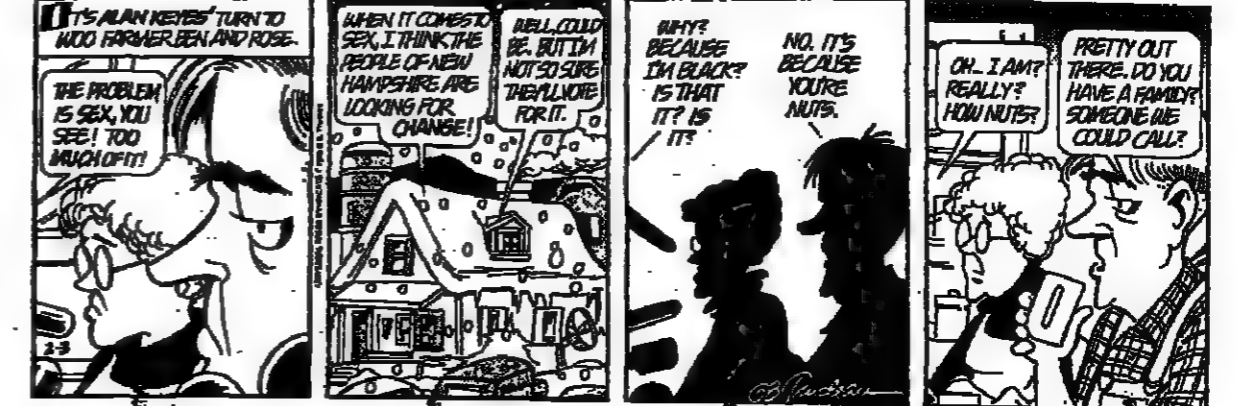
would require unquestioning belief, blind faith, the very irrationality atheists are seeking to uproot and the very thing art is not about. However much a Classical concert, for example, may look like a religious ritual — the symphony as sacred text, the concert hall as temple, the conductor as high priest — you do not have to "have faith" in Beethoven's Ninth to be moved, inspired, and challenged by it.

of moral absolutism. It just presents us with choices. And so the process of constructively replacing religion, of providing a moral focus to society without divine authority, goes on. Even as the rise of religious fundamentalism in the developed and developing worlds has forced secularists to take stock and fear for the

future, the moral framework for the post-religious world has continued to develop. The new sacred texts, as imperfect and as rich as humanity itself, are in place. We need only recognise them for what they are.

Roger Hutton is working on a book entitled Replacing Religion

Doonesbury



Paying the price for making it to a ripe old age

Richard Thomas

PROGRESS always comes with a price-tag, and the cost of a longer life is the increased risk of developing a long-term illness. Government actuaries estimate that one in six people will need nursing care in their old age - but only a tiny minority of the population has taken out any insurance against such costs.

The latest idea, in a paper from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) early this week, could just be it. The IPPR advocates Partial Equity Release Insurance Schemes (PERIs), which would allow people approaching retirement to pledge part of the value of their property as an insurance payment against unforeseen care costs.

imminent. Secondly, the person buying the insurance does not have to pay for the policy until after death, which, to some extent, overcomes the barrier of high cost.

Last but not least, the scheme means that even after the insurance company has taken its share, there will be a legacy.

Tony Solomon, marketing manager of Eagle Star, the biggest provider of "crisis care" policies for those who are already ill, said: "It is a superb idea, which should have tremendous appeal."

Munich Reassurance has recently conducted a survey of public opinion towards long-term care which demonstrates the potential popularity of these schemes. Respondents in their 60s were vehemently opposed to paying expensive monthly premiums and the vast majority were also uninterested in paying a lump sum up front.

But if PERIs did take off, there could be implications for the housing market. If the insurance company is to receive a fixed share of the house value, then it is clearly in the firm's interest to jack up the market. And, given that many insurers are also mortgage lenders, the mechanism is there too.

Mortgage rates are needlessly high as building societies fall over themselves in the rush to become banks

Home-buyers get raw deal

Margaret Hughes and Cliff Jones



Housebound... Nikki Gregory was threatened despite DSS help PHOTOGRAPH: ROLAND LEON

THIS week's figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which show that nearly 1,000 families have their homes repossessed each week, demonstrate how high mortgage rates and falling house prices are still taking their toll on home-owners.

But not on building societies, it seems. The Alliance & Leicester this week announced plans to sell the society for up to £3 billion, and give savers and borrowers free shares of around £750.

This will hardly be welcome news in the 150,000 homes which were dragged into negative equity for the first time last year, pushing the total of families in this unhappy position to 1.7 million.

They will greet with dismay the views of stockbroker analyst Rob Thomas, who believes some of their problems could have been ameliorated if building societies had not overcharged customers during the housing market recession in order to make three times more profits than they needed.

Mr Thomas claims that the pending sales of the Halifax and Woolwich would not have been overcharging their customers for the past three years. With the Alliance & Leicester, Britain's fourth biggest building society, now following the Halifax and the Woolwich in abandoning mutuality to become banks, he gives customers a better deal if they are to survive.

Building society bonanzas

- June 1989** Abbey National converts to bank. Members awarded 100 free shares worth 130p each.
- April 1994** Lloyds Bank announces takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.
- Nov 1994** Halifax & Leeds announces merger and conversion to bank status. Expected pay-out of £600 free shares. Additional pay-outs for bigger savers. Flotation planned early 1997.
- July 1995** Abbey National announces takeover of National & Provincial Building Society. N&P members to get £500 free Abbey shares. Bigger savers to get added pay-out.
- Aug 1995** Qualifying Cheltenham & Gloucester members receive an average £2,200 cash bonus following Lloyds takeover.
- Jan 1996** Woolwich announces conversion to bank status. Borrowers and savers to receive £700 free shares mid 1997.
- Jan 1996** Alliance & Leicester announces conversion to bank status. Members to receive £750 free shares early 1997, when it beats the Woolwich to the stock market.

their accounts on the last day of 1995 to qualify. But Giro-bank savers and depositors will not qualify.

Rather belatedly, the remaining societies which do not wish to become banks are moving to redress the position. As Brian Davies, chief executive of the Nationwide, now the only major society to remain committed to mutuality, admits: "Perhaps, of late, we have taken loyalty for granted and now it's time to prove what everyone already

Societies will have to use profits to give customers a better deal if they are to survive

knows - that building societies give customers a better deal and will always be cheaper in the long run than banks."

Within the next few weeks the Nationwide will introduce a loyalty package which could involve giving £150 million back to its customers through lower mortgage rates as well as higher savings rates. Britannia Building Society has said it will introduce a similar package in the spring.

Bradford & Bingley will on March 1 begin a scheme in

which it will give £50 million profit back to its members. Savings rates, it says, will remain a quarter per cent higher than rival societies, and borrowers will benefit from a standard variable mortgage rate of 7.24 per cent.

The Consumers' Association has warned savers that if building societies disappear interest rates for savers will fall. A report published this week claimed that smaller mutuals have paid better rates of returns on their savings. The "Which" report predicted that investors in building societies-turned-banks would see their savings rates fall.

In a bid to promote the benefits of mutuality, the Northern Rock this week scrapped its infamous early redemption penalties following complaints by borrowers. They were angry at being subjected to penalties - which had not been agreed at the outset - of two months' interest if they paid off their mortgages in the first seven years. Elsewhere, the Halifax is for the first time to pay fees to brokers.

Competition in the mortgages market remains intense. The Nationwide cut its fixed-rate mortgages by 0.75 per cent. Borrowers can fix at 4.99 per cent for two years, 6.24 per cent for three years and 7.39 per cent for five years. Coventry Building Society is offering a two-year rate fixed at 3.95 per cent or a rate of 6.7 per cent fixed for four years.

Savings rates on a slippery slope

Cashpoints

THE recent cut in base rates has begun to hit bank and building society savings returns.

Abbey National is reducing the rates across the range of its investment accounts by 0.25 per cent. Savers with £10,000 on deposit in its new quaint-sounding High Yield Bond will get 5.15 per cent before tax and 3.86 per cent

net, rising on a sliding scale to 6.25 per cent (4.5 per cent net) on balances of at least £200,000.

Net rates on its investment account now start from 2.4 per cent (3.2 per cent gross) on a minimum deposit of £500.

Savers will have to deposit at least £25,000 to see a real return on their investment. On this amount, the account pays 4.66 per cent gross, which works out at 3.49 per cent after tax. This is at a time when inflation is running at 3.2 per cent a year.

The Alliance & Leicester has set up a new 90-day notice account paying 3.07 per cent net (4.1 per cent gross) on a minimum deposit of £1,000, rising to 5.4 per cent net (7.2 per cent gross) on investments of at least £100,000.

DIRECT Line, the Royal Bank of Scotland's armchair banking offshoot, is offering returns of 4.6 per cent gross (3.45 per cent net) on a minimum opening deposit of £1,000. Investments of at least £10,000 earn 5.6 per cent gross (4.2 per cent net). Savings of £25,000 or more will return 6 per cent gross (4.5 per cent net).

NATIONAL Counties Building Society, based in Epsom, has launched its own Visa credit card, with an introductory interest rate of APR 18.9 which goes up to APR 19.9 from July 31, 1996. There is no yearly fee and card-holders have up to 8 weeks' interest-free credit on purchases.

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Agony of uncertainty adds to misery of repossession

Teresa Hunter

NIKKI Gregory has lived on invalidity benefit since her work counselling people with drug problems led her to the verge of a nervous breakdown nearly three years ago.

Her health problems were compounded by an earlier bout of recurring malaria. But despite the receipt of Government support to meet her mortgage repayments she has experienced continuing problems with her mortgage lender, the Cheltenham & Gloucester, which has threatened repossession.

A former Turning Point worker, Nikki, aged 50, of Birmingham, said arrears built up during her initial period of sickness, when the Government met only half the repayments on her £30,000 loan. But they were exacerbated by the C&G's

refusal to accommodate the DSS's direct payment system, which has a 18-month annual payment schedule.

The bank demanded 12 monthly payments and refused to accept the DSS's assurances that the shortfall would be made good at the end of the year.

Ms Gregory explains: "I have been honest and up-front as they tell you, but it got me nowhere"

have been honest and up-front with the bank, just like they tell you to be, but it has got me nowhere. Instead, I have been subjected to all kinds of stress, when I was powerless to do anything about it. "I have received umpteen mixed messages from the

staff telling me one minute that I would soon be facing repossession - the next minute assuring me it would all be sorted out."

The arrears on her £30,000 mortgage have ballooned to £6,000, leaving her with a total debt of £36,000 secured against a property which cost £45,500 at the peak of the house price boom.

Ms Gregory hopes to get back to work soon, but is afraid she could find herself in an even worse position if a new job falls to work out. She says: "I was working at least 60 hours a week as a counsellor and the work was so gruelling I just burned out. I have to make sure I am really strong before I return - but my big fear is that, following the changes to the mortgage safety net, if a new job didn't work out I would lose the state support for my mortgage. Then I would definitely lose my home."

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Caught by the companies with an urge to demerge

Ian Wylie

HANSON may be the latest in a line of conglomerates to follow the demerging fashion, but the trend has caught the Inland Revenue on the hop as Pep investors consider the tax implications of "demerged" shares.

When Hanson demerges, shareholders will receive shares in three separate companies specialising in chemicals, energy and tobacco, while retaining shares in Hanson, which will concentrate on construction. Shares in the chemical group are likely to be listed on the New York stock market only.

Aside from any share price implications, the demerger throws up a number of complications for investors who hold Hanson shares within a Pep, particularly those with single company Peps. On top of the £3,000 general Pep tax allowance, a tax-free Pep can also be wrapped around a further £3,000 invested in the shares of one company.

If shareholders approve the

spin-offs, Pep investors are likely to have to choose which share they wish to hold as their single company share. Since investors are not permitted to hold US stocks within a Pep, Hanson investors will certainly have to begin by removing the chemical group shares first. If the shares are sold, investors must reinvest the proceeds in their single company share within 42 days or risk losing their tax relief. Alternatively, investors may want to retain the US shares outside the Pep, but they would forfeit a proportion of their Pep tax allowance as a result.

With regard to the remaining three shares, Pep investors will probably have to choose one to be their single company Pep share, off-load the others and reinvest the proceeds in their chosen share within the 42-day limit. However, the Inland Revenue says the Pep status of shares will depend on how Hanson constructs the relationship between the four companies after they are demerged. A spokesman for the Inland Revenue admits it is entering "uncharted waters" on the implications of demergers.

When ICI hived off Zeneca in the summer of 1993, investors were allowed to hold both shares within the same single company Pep. However, the Inland Revenue is stressing that this should not be taken as a precedent.

A Hanson spokesman said the company was holding discussions with the Inland Revenue to iron out Pep details by the end of the summer, when the first demerger is likely to take place.

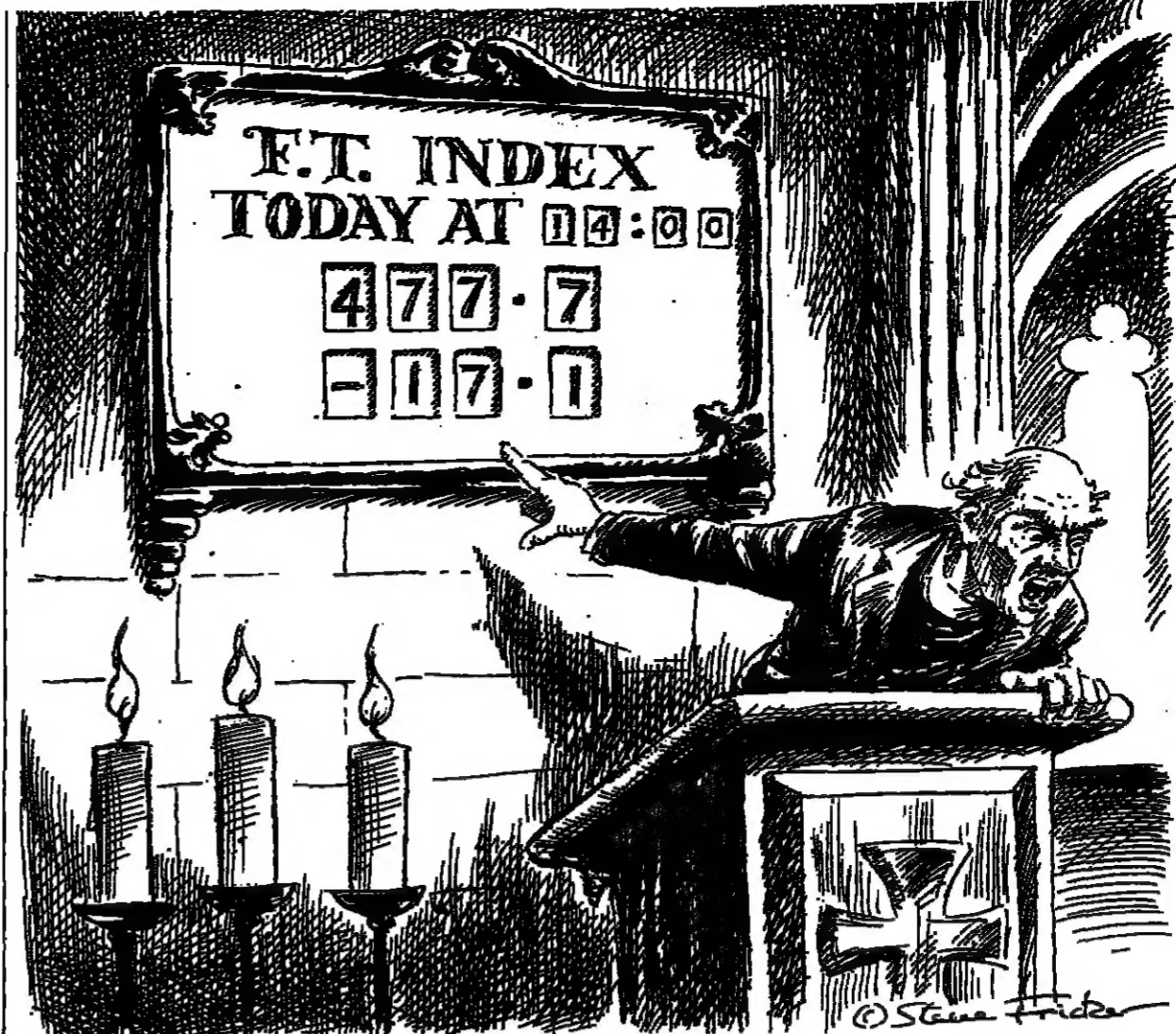
Hanson shares have been traded heavily in recent months, prompted by speculation that the 74-year-old Lord Hanson was likely to take steps to halt the conglomerate's decline before he retires as chairman next year. According to Chase de Vere, £1,000 invested in Hanson shares two years ago with gross income reinvested would now be worth just £946—a loss of 8 per cent which places Hanson 92nd in the league table of FTSE 100 shares.

Yet Hanson shares have proved popular with investors following the "O'Higgins principle"—a theory devised by an American fund manager who

claims to have found a mechanism for choosing shares which out-performs the market consistently. Pep managers who follow the theory choose blue-chip shares which are high-yielding, but low-priced.

Around 8,000 investors hold Hanson shares in single company Peps as part of the Johnson Fry Hyl Pep plan which uses the O'Higgins principle. Johnson Fry employs an automatic share selection system which picks out the 10 FT-30 shares with the highest dividend yield, then selects the share with the second-lowest price. The share is held for a year and then the selection process is automatically repeated. According to Johnson Fry, the Hyl system would have out-performed the FT All-Share index by an average of 16.5 per cent per year over the past 25 years.

For the past two months, Hanson has been the Hyl selected share. Johnson Fry's Alistair Altham says Hyl Pep managers are likely to sell Hanson shares when the demerger takes place and replace them with the next share on the selection list.



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Stockbrokers tell poor churches: 'Now let us pay'

Nick Pandya

CHURCH of England parishes strapped for cash have found a saviour in the Share Centre stockbroking firm.

The Share Service for Christians will offer competitive dealing rates and arrange a donation of 30 per cent of the commission charged to the parish of an investor's choice.

The broker charges 1.3 per cent of the value of the bargain subject to a minimum fee of £15, of which the nominated parish will get £4.50.

On share trades worth £5,000, the broker's commission works out at £65 with the chosen parish receiving £19.50.

There is a facility to amalgamate family shareholdings into a single trade at £2.50 per person plus normal dealing charges.

The new service is undergoing field-tests in the Oxford area, and chief executive Gavin Oldham says the Share Centre is willing to extend the new dealing service to Christians of all denominations around the country.

The broker also offers a Pricewise service which enables investors to specify the maximum price they

are prepared to pay for shares when buying, and the minimum price they are prepared to accept when selling. Charges for putting the deal on hold to get the pre-set price vary. There is no fee for the first month, thereafter it will cost £2.50 a month for the next three months.

Share-owning Christians are urged to re-evaluate their portfolios to check if they might unwittingly be holding shares in companies that violate the tenets of their faith.

For instance, people with shares in oil giant Shell who are disenchanted with that firm's activities in Nigeria may want to swap their holding through the Share Centre for a stake in another company, boosting their local church funds in the process.

Church members involved in investment clubs could also use the Share Centre's new service to buy or sell shares for the benefit of their parish finances.

But remember that the broker offers an execution-only service whereby it acts on investor instructions and does not give advice on which shares to buy or sell.

Further information from the Share Centre on freephone 0800-800-008.

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Regulator is accused of getting capital costs wrong in price review and halving the company's profits

BT attacks Oftel's figures

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom warned yesterday that up to half its profits could be wiped out by an incorrect calculation in Oftel's proposals for the next price review.

BT claimed that the estimate by the regulator, Oftel, of the group's cost of capital, at between 9 and 13 per cent, was far too low as a result of incorrect tax computations and insufficient allowances for increasing risks. It insisted that the correct figure was between 16 and 18 per cent.

BT's warnings came in its official response to Oftel's consultative documents on the next price review and on special measures to outlaw anti-competitive behaviour.

The group insisted nevertheless that Oftel's plans to include a catch-all clause in its licence outlawing anti-competitive behaviour would need an appeal process.

It is suggesting that Don Cruickshank, the director-general of Oftel, should be allowed to order an immediate halt to anything which he regarded as anti-competitive, but the company should have the right to ask for an independent review of that decision.

BT executives said yesterday that the whole anti-competitive issue could be resolved without negotiations with Oftel if the Government pushed on with its commitment to implement European competition law.

Davos Notebook

Infantry loses out in battle of dole



Larry Elliott

FOR as long as anyone can remember, Switzerland has been a haven for those on the run; a mountain retreat for prisoners of war or deserters fleeing from European conflicts while life has gone on untouched and untroubled in the high Alps.

As such, it's appropriate that the world's business and political elite find time once a year to convene in Davos to suck in plentiful quantities of unpolluted air, ski a little and contemplate the state of the global economy.

Many of them could do with a break. The outlook is not looking that wonderful, although you would be hard pressed to find a central banker or politician who would admit as much. It's as if the first world war generals had slipped away from the Western Front to spend some time reassessing their strategy only to conclude that what was required was an increase in conscription and a couple of extra battalions.

For like the masterminds of the Somme and Verdun, the unemployed and the poor are seen as the unfortunate casualties of a war of attrition that will in the end ensure the triumph of global free market capitalism and produce jobs and prosperity for everyone.

Indeed, to the extent that casualties are proving rather higher than those directing operations from behind the lines have anticipated, it's the fault of the poor bloody infantry, not the high command. It's not that the strategy is wrong, it's that the men can't spell or add up, that they are having their strength sapped by benefits or that they are malingering behind the fortifications thrown up by over-powerful trade unions.

Consider this, for example, from Field Marshal Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France. "Policy in France", he thundered, "is aimed at improving stability, and is paying off". Paying off? Of course. Forget the 11.5 per cent unemployment rate in France, just think about the way those long-term bond rates are coming down.

And how about the idea that there might be an alternative to sloping through the mud to secure a mile of No Man's Land, some 1990s economic equivalent of the tank to transform military tactics. No such luck. We have to beware of being fashion groups, said Mr Trichet, and must not be diverted from the pursuit of monetary stability and fiscal prudence.

There are, however, a few straws in the wind — signs that once again it may be left to the Americans to save the Europeans from themselves. For the United States has already been through the labour-market deregulation that Europe's leaders now seem so keen on emulating, and many of them don't like what they see.

WILLIAM Bennett, George Bush's drug czar and now a pillar of the new right, opened the conference with a lecture that dwelled on the way in which not only industries but people had been hollowed out by the deflation of market forces.

Mr Bennett, bemoaning the lack of religious faith and virtue in modern capitalist societies, dwelled on the American talk shows where people are routinely humiliated in front of prime-time audiences. He has come to the conclusion that this baring of souls must be stopped, but has so far had little success. Markets force, you see. It's what the consumer wants.

Yet this is not what the free-market fanatics want. Their model was based on the idea that active government, full employment and the regulation of capital produced an on-feared society, crippled by dependency. The opposite is, of course, true. It was employment that allowed people to fend for themselves and make their own choices in the 1850s and 1960s, mass unemployment that has left them without the means or the inclination to fend for themselves.

From time to time, such heresies found a voice yesterday, but tended to be greeted like a conscientious objector in the backstreets of Manchester in July 1916. Those, like the finance director of a leading UK bank, who wondered why people were begging a living on the streets of New York when there was a desperate need for a decent rail link between Kennedy airport and Manhattan, were very much in the minority.

Larry Summers, the deputy-secretary at the US Treasury tried to warn the Europeans against the risk of cyclical unemployment having led into structural joblessness, and suggested that there was scope for a more expansionary macro-economic policy. Yet it was interesting that when Trichet, Tietmeyer and Summers put forward 20 separate suggestions for what the world economy might look like in the year 2000, not one of them mentioned unemployment, let alone the impact of globalisation on the environment.

Ultimately, these two strands — the pressure to put people back to work and the need to safeguard the environment — will be welded together by policy makers with vision. But for now there is no talk of policies designed to foster growth and jobs, no suggestion that there should be active measures to promote greater equality within and between societies, no conception that ultimately unreformed global capitalism may devour itself.

It would be pleasing to be able to report that a serious challenge is being mounted to this numbing orthodoxy. But there isn't. The theme this year is of sustaining globalisation, and the success of free market capitalism is illustrated by the fact that even the North Koreans are in town, seeking meetings with running dogs of imperialism. The Cubans are in Davos, too, des-

EMU 'is once and only effort'

LARRY ELLIOTT in Davos on tough talking by Bundesbank

BUNDESBANK president Hans Tietmeyer gave a stark warning yesterday of the dangers of a single currency. He said there was only one chance to get monetary union right.

Underlining his opposition to any dilution in the tough Maastricht convergence criteria, he stressed that keeping to the original plan was crucial.

"European monetary union must be a success," Mr Tietmeyer said. "We only have one shot. We can't follow a trial-and-error process."

"EMU must be a success from the beginning and a lasting success. Otherwise it will not be a convincing solution and Europe would be very much harmed. It would be a danger for Europe and that's why I'm so tough about the conditions."

He was taking part in a discussion at the World Economic Forum with Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, and Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the European commissioner with responsibility for the single currency.



Convergence signposts... Swiss policeman guards entrance to congress centre where World Economic Forum is meeting

Mr Trichet said the possibility of a hard core taking the lead had been envisaged in the Maastricht treaty.

"It is unlikely that all member states will all be on the first train, but it is important that the train proceeds and is perceived as a very good thing for the rest of Europe."

Mr Trichet rejected suggestions from French MP Pierre Lalonde that the people of Europe were more concerned about the prospect for jobs, saying that the French government would be pursuing the objectives contained in the Maastricht treaty even without the prospect of a single currency.

Both he and Mr Tietmeyer said that the European Commission needed to work on the details of the stability pact — the arrangement for harmonising the fiscal policies of countries joining monetary union.

Mr Trichet said fiscal policy needed to be coherent and there was "the possibility of sanctions, including fines" against those governments that undermined credibility by being too lax.

MoD blamed as Yarrow yard sheds 650 jobs

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

DEWAYS by the Ministry of Defence in placing orders for warships yesterday provoked Yarrow, the Clydeside shipyard owned by GEC, to announce 650 job losses and warn that hundreds more jobs in the beleaguered industry were under threat.

Dismissed unions at the yard, which has a workforce of 3,000, said they were seeking an urgent meeting with Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth to push for assurances that orders for three Type 23 frigates would be hurried through the MoD.

US rise in unemployed surprises analysts

Mark Tran in New York

THE sharpest rise in the jobless total for nearly six years yesterday added to fears that America may be heading back into recession.

Apple chops top of tree to make way for new chief

Lisa Buckingham

APPLE Computer, the loss-making PC maker, was yesterday poised to oust its long-suffering chief executive officer, Michael Spindler.

Computer maker derails Diesel. Mark Tran reports from New York

Mark Tran in New York

A new product line based on the PowerPC microprocessor, Mr Spindler blundered in his forecasts of demand.

EMI soars in hope of early demerger decision

Lisa Buckingham

NEARLY £150 million was added to the market value of Thorn EMI yesterday on speculation that the group would announce details of a multi-billion pound demerger along with its interim profits at the end of this month.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.96	France 7.50	Italy 2.50	Singapore 2.11
Austria 15.30	Germany 2.20	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 3.38
Belgium 45.00	Greece 368.00	Netherlands 2.475	Spain 164.00
Canada 2.025	Hong Kong 11.50	New Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.47
Cyprus 0.7025	India 53.35	Norway 9.35	Switzerland 7.78
Denmark 8.52	Ireland 4.95	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 91.291
Finland 6.50	Israel 4.75	Saudi Arabia 5.64	USA 1.4825

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

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Finance Guardian

5.10 departure to uncertainty

Nervous Tories are pushing through rail sale with hope of making it irreversible. KEITH HARPER reports

BRITISH Rail officially goes private from 2am tomorrow. This is the moment chosen by Whitehall mandarins to place three sections of the passenger network in company hands.

Only an enthusiastic posse of hardened orawks will be up to observe the transformation of Britain's best-loved Aunt Sally institution — other parts of which will don their new, private coats between now and April next year, provided the Government lasts its full term until then.

Having survived the Save our Railways Campaign in the High Court before Christmas, ministers are pressing ahead to thwart an incoming Labour government's chances of renationalising the railways. The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, is gearing up to privatise many of the remaining 22 passenger franchises in the next 12 months.

own's Britain's rail infrastructure, the sell-off will muddle along pleasantly, without impacting on the public's conscience.

The object is to sell Railtrack for a song. Its assets were originally valued at £25 billion in April 1994 when its access charges were set. Now the talk is of selling it for a quarter of that or even less, in a grotesque write-down of the business. City and industry sources suggest that the Government would be happy with £1.5 billion, but if £2 billion is secured that will do very nicely.

This is financial engineering of the highest quality, but the City is used to selling anything if the price is right. The Government has been looking at the option of bribing the public into buying shares, perhaps by special travel concessions. This has not pleased the new train operators.

Railtrack's debt, too, will have to be written off before the flotation. It has already been reduced to £1.2 billion, by creative accounting. And once it goes altogether, the sale will become more attractive — even though Railtrack's financial advisers, SBC Warburg, admit that the scope to "grow the revenues line in the near term" is limited. The sell-off of stations and property it owns is regarded as having the best potential to generate profits.

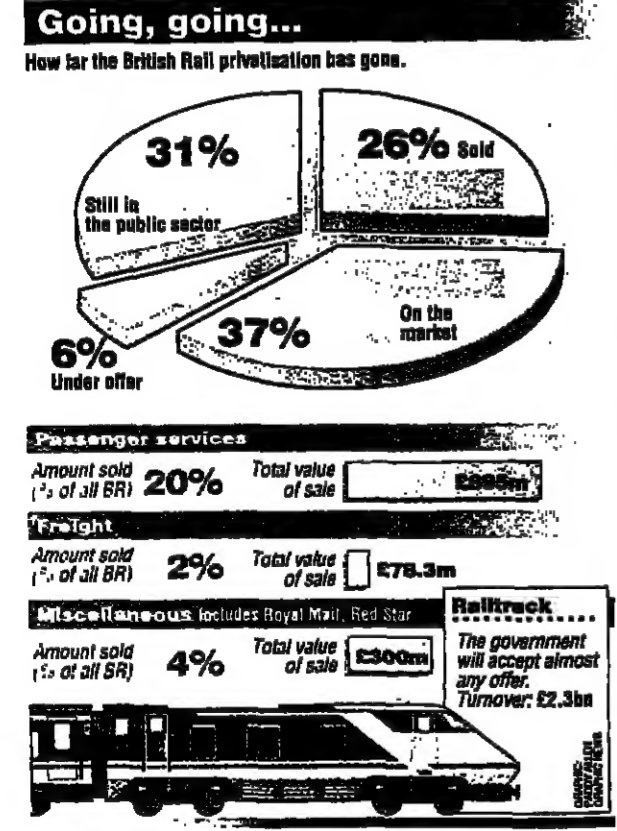
There is a dispute over which is tomorrow's first train. Stagecoach, the company running South West Trains out of Waterloo to the West Country, has the best claim, with its 1.0am service from Twickenham to Waterloo. One-off travellers on this service will be able to obtain biscuits and tea on the platform.

A spoiling operation has been mounted, inadvertently, by Great Western Trains. The 1.50am Fishguard to Paddington service will begin in the public sector but will be a bus as far as Cardiff due to dreaded engineering works. Somewhere along the route, Great Western Trains will assume responsibility, and eight hours later binary-eyed passengers will stagger into Paddington. In the meantime, the third new operator, Enterprise Rail, will quietly take over the London to Southeast commuter line around 7am. The staff uniforms will be different, but the trains will be the same, and so will the prices.

Tomorrow will be remarkably like any normal day, in fact. The new operators, with



Ready for the off... about-to-be-privatised trains at Kings Cross station, London. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BILLOTTE



Train chiefs spell out plans

Two of the three new rail passenger company heads unveiled their strategy this week to an enthusiastic meeting of the London railway passenger group. They offered fresh ideas and a better service and were applauded, but with reservations on how far they could deliver.

Brian Scott, managing director of Great Western Rail, heads the management buy-out team which has been awarded a seven-year franchise. Its motto is: "Go for growth and empty the M4." He guaranteed trains into Cornwall at their current level, a daily service to Carmarthen, and the Fishguard boat train at least until 1999.

There will be a 30-minute service to Cardiff and Bristol from Paddington, and "an attractive new timetable this summer". A passenger service is being introduced at Paddington.

A sleeper service will be maintained to Penzance, and a motorail service to Cornwall was promised. The company could divide an eight-carriage train in two, providing more frequent services. Employee participation is to be encouraged.

Mr Scott wants to introduce tilting trains to improve on journey times. The company aims to answer all correspondence within five days, instead of 10, and a new passengers' charter will compensate travellers if they are delayed more than an hour. The number of cycles allowed on a train will be doubled to 10.

Chris Kinchen-Smith, managing director of Enterprise Rail, responsible for

the London, Tilbury and Southeast line, promised "the utter transformation" of this heavily criticised commuter route. He aims to improve punctuality from 82 per cent to 90 per cent from October this year.

There will be two new trains after 10 o'clock at night and new information systems. Given the improvements the company is looking for, fares should increase by only 0.7 per cent each year.

New rolling stock is to be ordered within a year, which under the privatisation rules gives the company a 15-year contract instead of its current seven. The timetable will not be reduced, and "we will not be putting the boot into our staff". Mr Kinchen-Smith added: "Our passengers are not interested in ideology. They just want a good service. This Cinderella railway will get to the ball."

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Age of the virtuous ad

20 Roger Cowe

VIETNAM this week launched a campaign against what it describes as "social evils and cultural poisons." This catch-all includes prostitution, as it would in most countries. Sensibly, it also covers karaoke but goes on to embrace gambling and consumer goods advertising, which many in the West find positively virtuous.

The effect is, for a time at least, that billboards promoting companies such as Sony and Kodak, and European foods, have been painted over, covered up or dismantled. The campaign to preserve Vietnamese culture also requires western names to be subsidiary to their Vietnamese equivalents.

Some cynics have dismissed the campaign as electioneering ahead of the Communist party congress, expected in June. And it seems unlikely that Vietnam can resist the tide of western commercial and cultural imperialism as successfully as the country fought off the military version. But there is clearly something to be said for fighting social evils. As the minister of culture, Tran Hoa, put it: "We have to fight against immoral things that may cause negative influences."

Few can argue with that, but of course there are different views of immorality and "negative influences". In Britain, as in most western countries, that would tend to be interpreted as illegal drugs — cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, etc. But there is a strong voice in the European Union's debates on advertising, arguing that many mainstream aspects of western commerce are immoral and "negative influences".

The first target must be tobacco. Even the most fervent smokers can hardly claim that there are serious positive influences from smoking. The ministry of health should not find it difficult to explain why a cigarette is "immoral" and to warn of this "social evil" — as the Vietnamese might describe tobacco if they weren't so addicted to it. Tobacco is easy, but it is not so easy to know where to

stop. Alcohol is probably next on the list, although the drinks industry has done a good job of trying to prove that a few drinks are actually good for you. And then there is toy advertising, much criticised by many parents and even frowned upon by some ad agencies.

But toys themselves are clearly not a social evil. They have very positive influences on children's development, despite what some might think about Game Boys and other modern toys. It is advertising itself that injects the "negative influences" by showing children with consumption messages.

Perhaps the answer is to turn the potency of advertising towards social virtues. Unfortunately, however, copywriters never show their best when extolling virtuous activities.

Witness the slogan, reported in Hanoi this week, proclaiming: "Protection against poisonous cultural items is the duty of all society." It doesn't quite have the ring of "it could be you" or even "Come to Marlboro Country".

There is another problem, too. Unlike in Vietnam, there are no votes to be gained from campaigning against social evils and cultural poisons.

Quick Crossword No. 8039

Solution No. 8038

Across

- 1 Marine (8)
- 5 Go ahead — metal — van (4)
- 9 Dried coconut (5)
- 10 Feeler (7)
- 11 Politician — opposed to change (12)
- 13 University — shos (5)
- 14 Set fire to (5)
- 17 Russian president (5,7)
- 20 Detonate (7)

Down

- 21 Artless (5)
- 22 Striped gemstone (4)
- 6 Boredom (5)
- 7 Breadth of circle (8)
- 8 Recycled (12)
- 12 Mexican hat (8)
- 15 Introductory — letter (7)
- 16 Strict (5)
- 18 Answer (5)
- 19 An expression — for part of the school year (4)

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Cabinet
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Austin

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